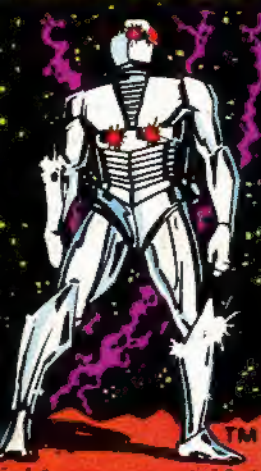


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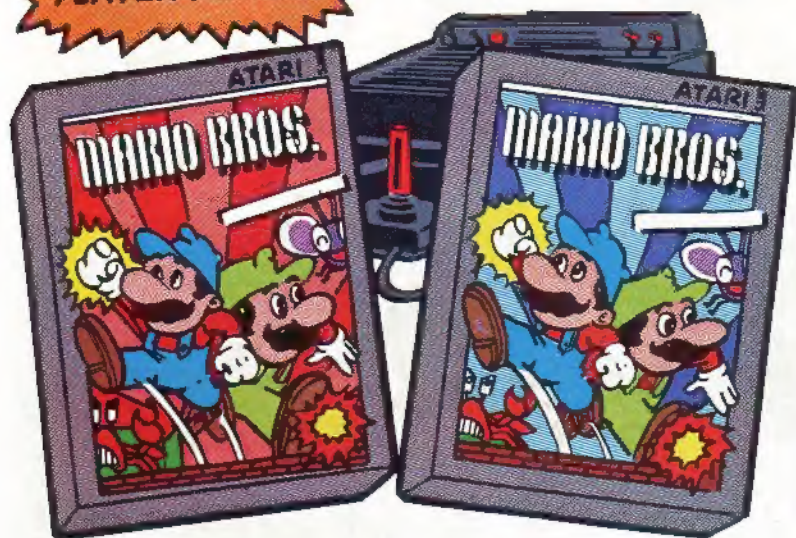
**INTO THE DARKNESS OF
WRAITH-REALM!**



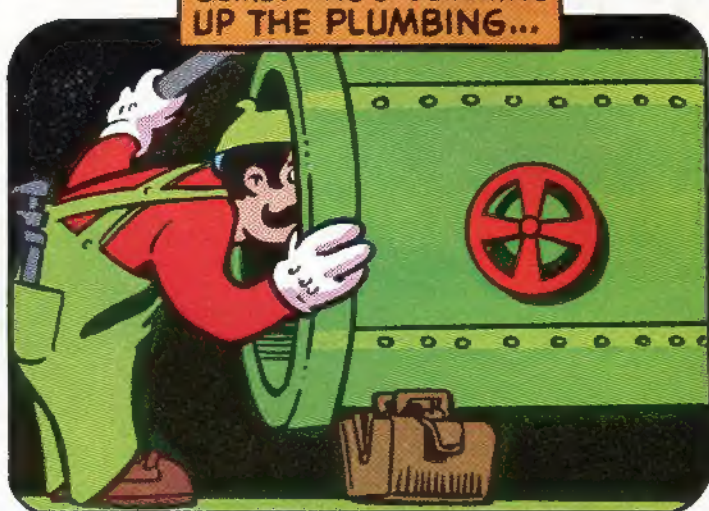
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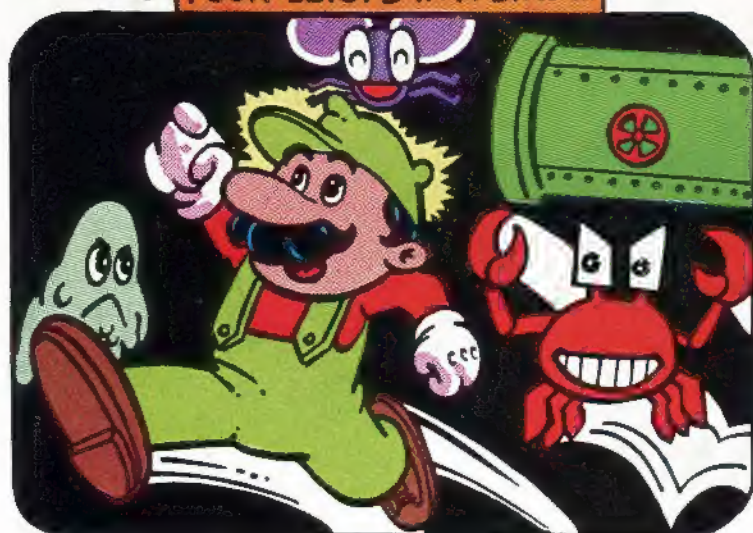
EXCITING 2
PLAYER ACTION!



SOMETHING'S GUMMING
UP THE PLUMBING...



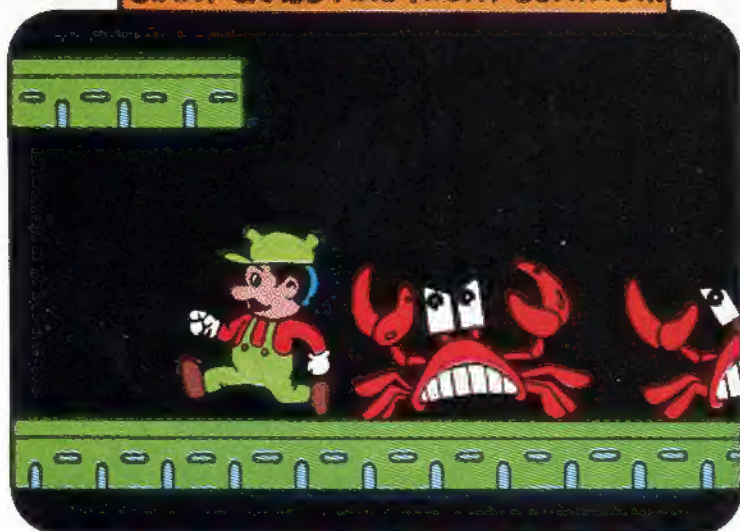
POOR LUIGI'S IN A BIND...



KILLER TURTLES OUT TO GET HIM...



GIANT CRABS ARE RIGHT BEHIND...



FIGHTER FLIES, HOLY CRIPES!
THEY'RE ALL COMING OUT THE PIPES!



MARIO BROS.*

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STAN LEE PRESENTS: THE GREATEST OF THE SPACEKNIGHTS--ROM!

BILL
MANTLO
STORY

STEVE
DITKO

6
ART

JACKSON
GUICE

JANICE
CHIANG
LETTERS

PETRA
SCOTSE
COLORS

MIKE
CARLIN
EDITOR

JIM
SHOOTER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

IT WAS A
SULTRY SUMMER
DAY LIKE ANY
OTHER ON THE
WAVE-WASHED
SANDS OF
VIRGINIA
BEACH...



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FOR MILES, THE SKY IS COVERED BY MYSTERIOUS CREATURES THAT RISE, IN A BLACK-WINGED MASS, UNTIL THEY SEEM TO SWALLOW THE VERY LIGHT OF THE SUN.

AND, ON THE PLANET CAST IN SHADOW BELOW, PANIC STARTS TO BUILD...

... WHILE THOSE NEAREST TO THE PHENOMENON CRY OUT FOR AN EXPLANATION...

TOWER, THIS IS DELTA-FIVE-NINER! ARE YOU TRACKING THIS THING?

AH... NEGATIVE, DELTA-FIVE-NINER! OUR RADAR READS YOU AS ALONE IN THE SKY!

BUT WE HAVE VISUAL CONFIRMATION ON WHATEVER THAT THING IS UP THERE!

I'VE JUST HEARD FROM THE AIR FORCE!

"THEY'RE SENDING UP A FIGHTER SQUADRON!"

WE CAN SEE IT, GROUND CONTROL, BUT WE STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT THE BLAZES IT IS!

THAT IS BECAUSE THESE MEN OF EARTH HAVE NEVER VOYAGED TO THE DREAD DARK NEBULA...

IMAGINE! OREO® COOKIES EVERYWHERE!!

HOW MANY OREO COOKIES CAN YOU FIND?



FOR MORE FUN,
COLOR IN THIS PAGE!

CREAMY, CRUNCHY, CHOCOLATE OREO
GOES GREAT WITH IMAGINATION!

ANSWER: 62 OREOS
PLUS 25 IN PACKAGE

...AND HAVE NEVER ENCOUNTERED THE DIABOLICAL DEATH-WINGS SPAWNED IN THE FARTHEST REACHES OF SPACE WHERE THEY SURVIVE BY SWALLOWING SUNS.

UNABLE TO PASS BEYOND THE THIN AIR OF EARTH'S UPPER ATMOSPHERE, THE SCREAMING COLUMN OF EBONY EVIL STOPS...

... IT TURNS AND SPIRALS BACK IN UPON ITSELF, WHIRLING EVER FASTER...

... UNTIL ITS TURNING MAKES IT SEEM AN ENORMOUS BLACK VORTEX SPINNING IN THE SKY.

ALL LIFE ON EARTH'S DAY SIDE DRAWS TO A HALT, ALL SIGHTED EYES STARE SKYWARD AT THE STRANGE SINISTER SHAPE.

WHAT THEY SEE TODAY ARE NOT TRUE DEATH-WINGS, HOWEVER, BUT SHAPE CHANGING DIRE WRAITHS ADOPTING THE SHADOW-SAURIANS' FORM.

IT'S NOT SPINNING ANYMORE!

NO! IT'S STOPPED! IT'S JUST HANGING THERE BETWEEN THE EARTH AND THE SUN!

EVERYTHING'S DARK BENEATH IT! DARK AND COLD!

WHAT IS IT DOING THERE? WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?

SATURDAY'S THE PLACE

Jim Henson's
MUPPET Babies

GET ALONG GANG

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

**SATURDAY
SUPERFEST**

SPACE ACE

QUEST

WARD

**POLE
POSITION**

PAYOR'S PLACE

**STARTING
SEPT. 15 ON CBS**



THE ANSWER TO THOSE QUESTIONS IS GRIM INDEED. CALLING UPON ARCAINE ARTS UNKNOWN TO EARTH, THE DEMONIC DIRE WRAITHS HAVE FORGED A SUPERNATURAL STAR DISC.

JET-BLACK, ITS SHIMMERING SURFACE SEEMS TO CATCH ALL LIGHT, TO SWALLOW ALL ILLUMINATION.

AND THE BRIGHTEST SOURCE OF LIGHT IN THE SKY, OF COURSE... IS THE SUN!

THE ABSORPTION OF LIGHT BY DARKNESS CREATES AN ELDITCH REACTION. THE STAR DISC SEEMS TO THROB, TO HEAVE...

...AND BLACKNESS RISES FROM ITS MASS IN AN OBSCENE UNDULATION.

ITS RAYS FILTER DOWN THROUGH EARTH'S OZONE LAYER ONLY TO BE TRAPPED BY THE STAR DISC.

THE BLACKNESS SHOOTS FORTH FROM THE SINISTER STAR DISC AND OUT INTO THE VOID.

THEN, AFTER TRAVERSING SPACE AT A SUPERNATURAL SPEED...

... THE SHAFT OF DARKNESS STABS A BLACK HOLE IN THE VERY HEART OF EARTH'S SUN!

A COLLECTIVE CRY GOES UP FROM HUMANITY. EVERY INDIVIDUAL FEELS A SUDDEN SHADOW FALL ACROSS HIS OR HER SOUL.

AND, AT THE
EDGE OF SPACE,
THE WRAITH
SORCERESSES
SCREAM THEIR
TRIUMPH TO
THE DISTANT
STARS!

BUT TRIUMPH QUICKLY TURNS TO TERROR, FOR SUDDENLY INTO THE VERY MIDST OF THE SHRIEKING SAURIANS SOARS...

... ROM, THE SILVER SPACEKNIGHT!

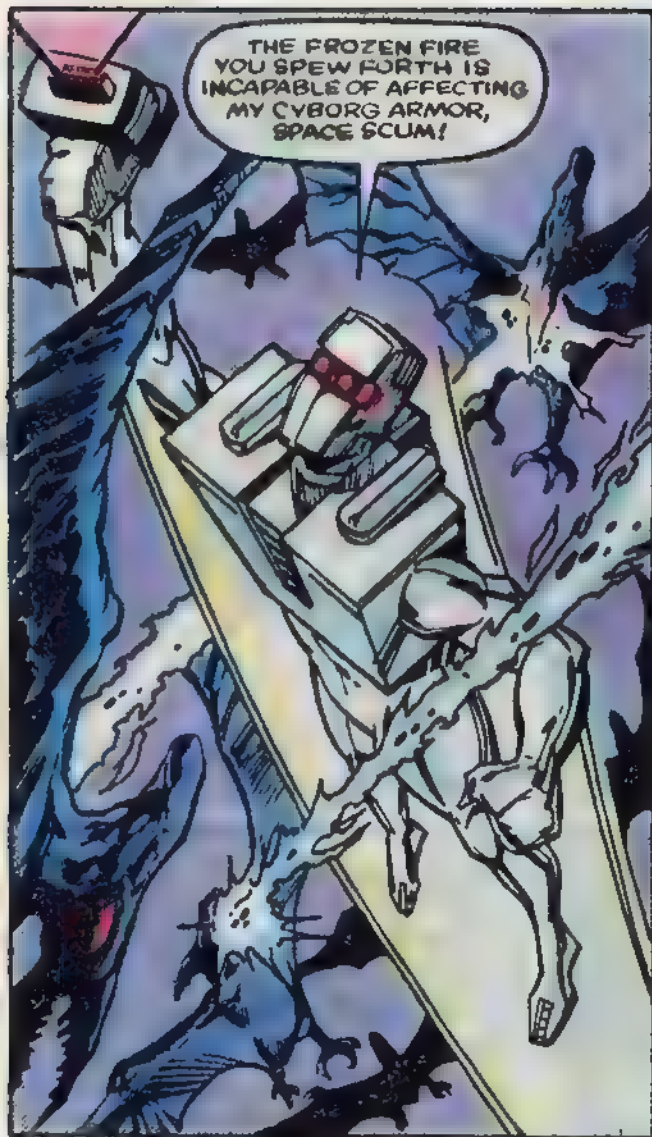
IN ROM'S CYBORG HAND IS HELD HIS NEUTRALIZER. ALTHOUGH EVERY GALADORIAN THAT WAS GRAFTED INTO SPACEKNIGHT ARMOR TO COMBAT THE DEADLY DIRE WRAITHS 200 YEARS AGO WAS GIVEN A SPECIAL AND INDIVIDUAL POWER...

... THE COMBINED MIGHT OF ROM AND HIS NEUTRALIZER-- OF WARRIOR AND WEAPON-- CREATED THE MOST FORMIDABLE FIGHTING MACHINE EVER TO SWEEP FORTH FROM GALADOR'S GOLDEN GALAXY.

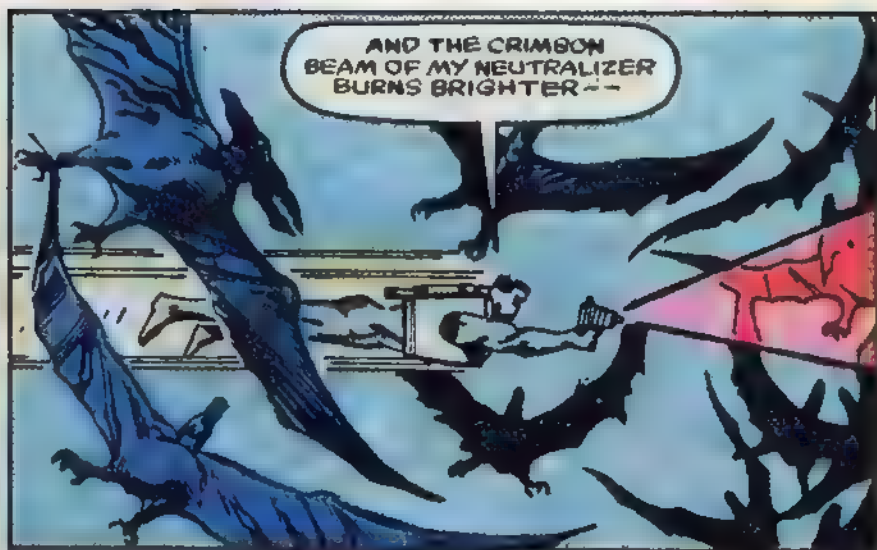
THE NEUTRALIZER SINGS ITS SONG OF BANISHMENT.

CAUGHT IN ITS BEAM, DIRE WRAITHS FALL INTO THE SHADOW-REALM CALLED LIMBO.

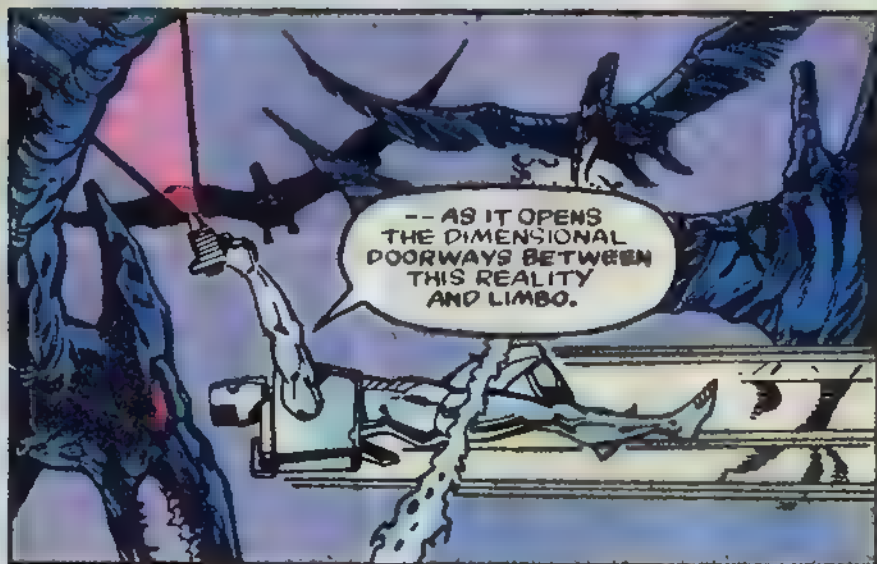
THERE THEY CAN HISS AND HOWL FOR ALL ETERNITY, YET NEVER AGAIN CAUSE ANOTHER BEING HARM.



THE FROZEN FIRE
YOU SPEW FORTH IS
INCAPABLE OF AFFECTING
MY CYBORG ARMOR,
SPACE SCUM!



AND THE CRIMSON
BEAM OF MY NEUTRALIZER
BURNS BRIGHTER --



-- AS IT OPENS
THE DIMENSIONAL
DOORWAYS BETWEEN
THIS REALITY
AND LIMBO.



THE ACTIONS OF THE DIRE WRAITHS, A
MENACING MODEL OF ORDER AND DISCI-
PLINE WHEN THEY WERE SURCEROUSLY
SUMMONING FORTH THE STAR DISC, NOW
DEGENERATE INTO TERROR-INSPIRED
CHAOS.

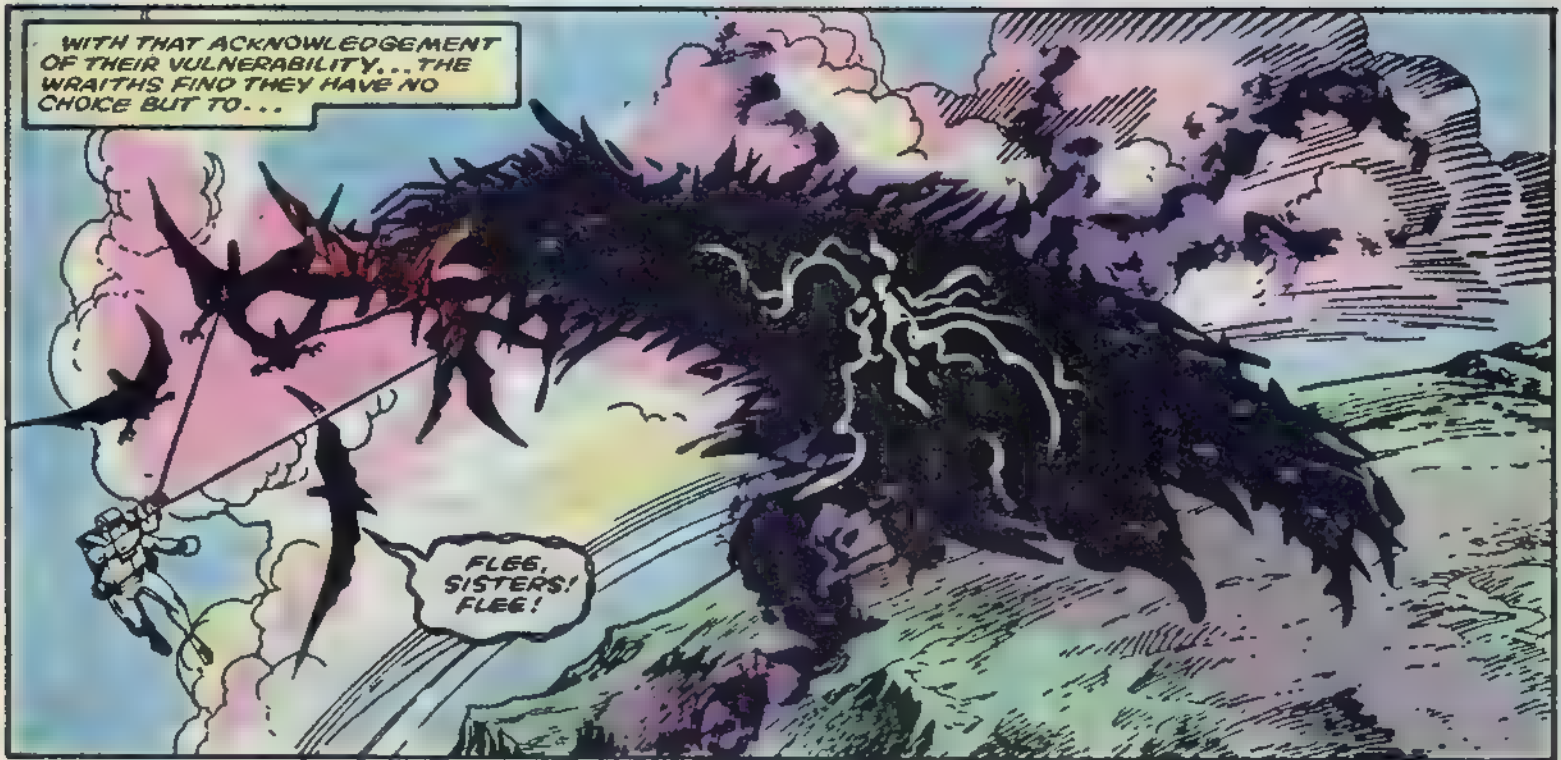
ROM
BANISHES
OUR SISTERS
BY THE
SCORE!



THAT IS BECAUSE
THERE ARE SO MANY OF
US HERE AT ONCE!

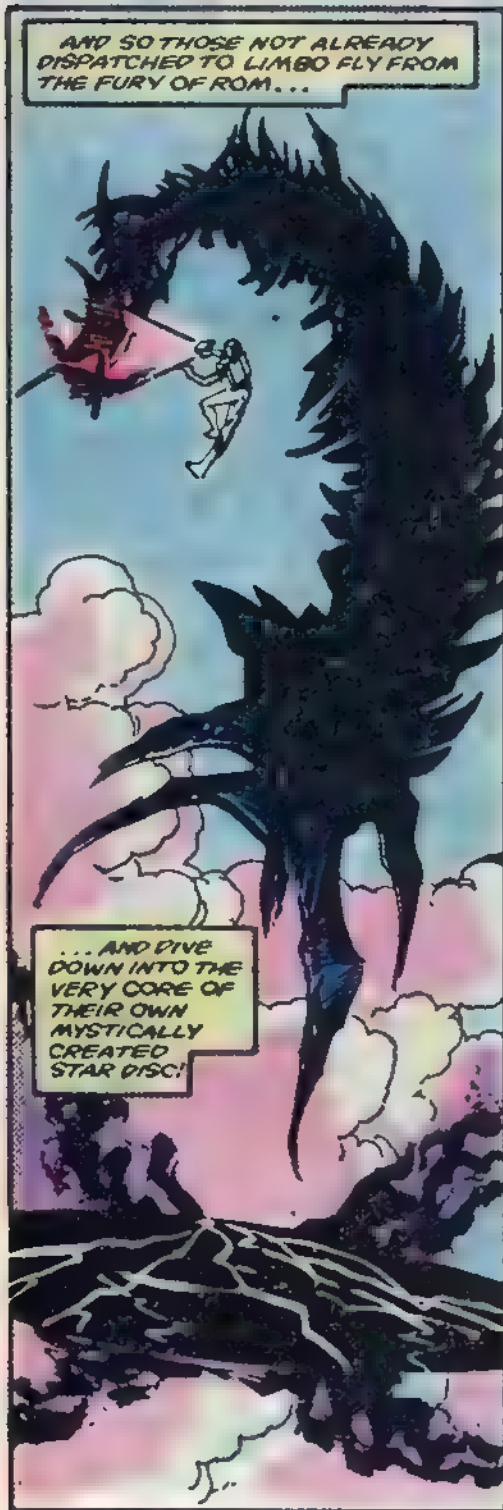
THE CREATION OF THE STAR DISC
REQUIRED THAT EVERY WRAITH
ON EARTH ASSEMBLE!

WE EXPENDED MUCH
OF OUR POWER IN THAT
EFFORT! NOW WE ARE
HELPLESS BEFORE THE
ONSLAUGHT OF ROM!



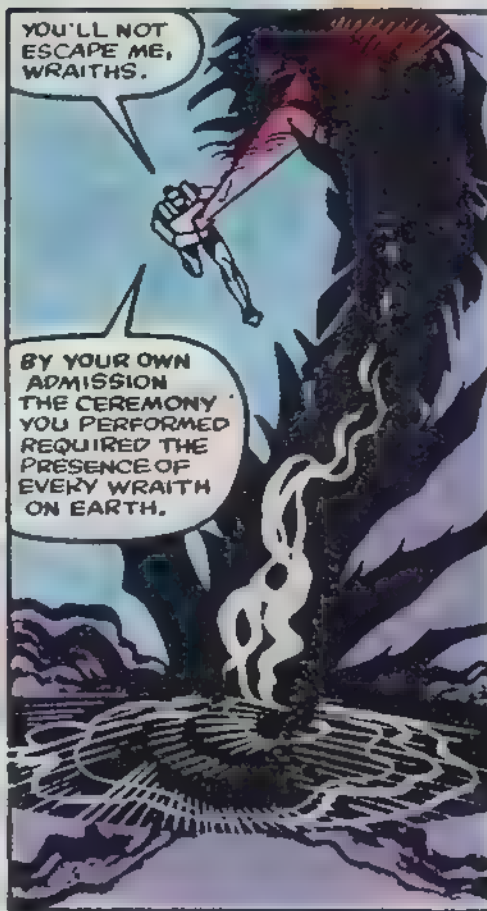
WITH THAT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THEIR VULNERABILITY... THE WRAITHS FIND THEY HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO...

FLEE, SISTERS! FLEE!



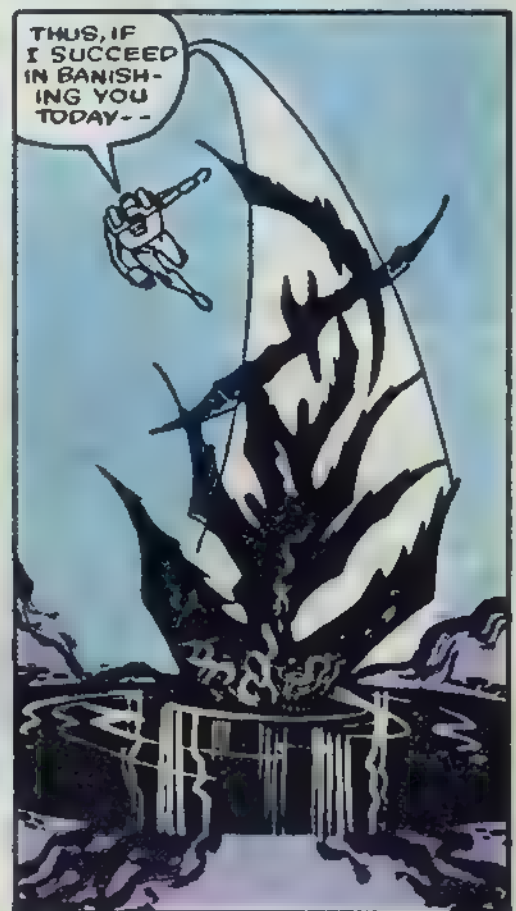
AND SO THOSE NOT ALREADY DISPATCHED TO LIMBO FLY FROM THE FURY OF ROM...

... AND DIVE DOWN INTO THE VERY CORE OF THEIR OWN MYSTICALLY CREATED STAR DISC!

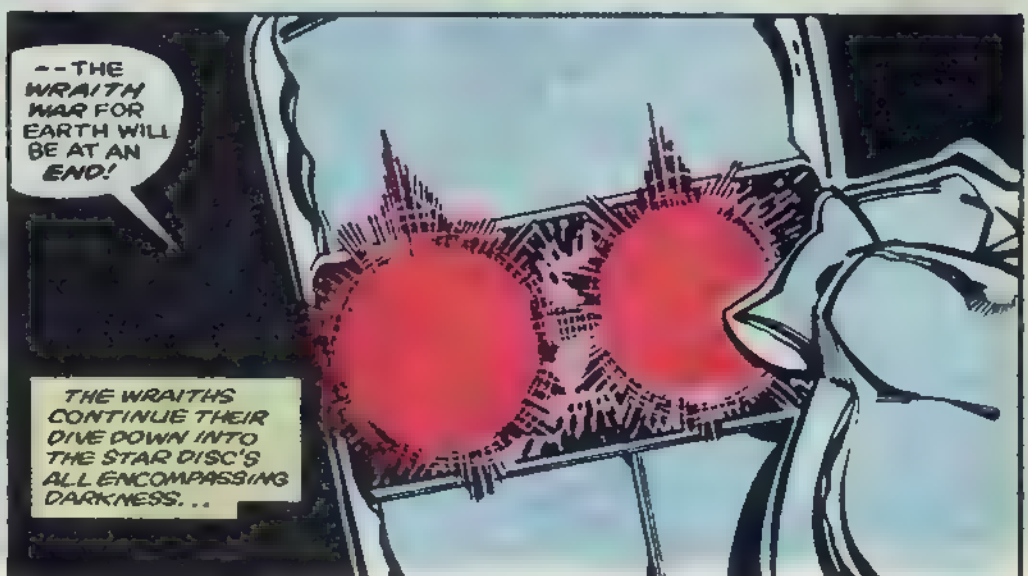


YOU'LL NOT ESCAPE ME, WRAITHS.

BY YOUR OWN ADMISSION THE CEREMONY YOU PERFORMED REQUIRED THE PRESENCE OF EVERY WRAITH ON EARTH.



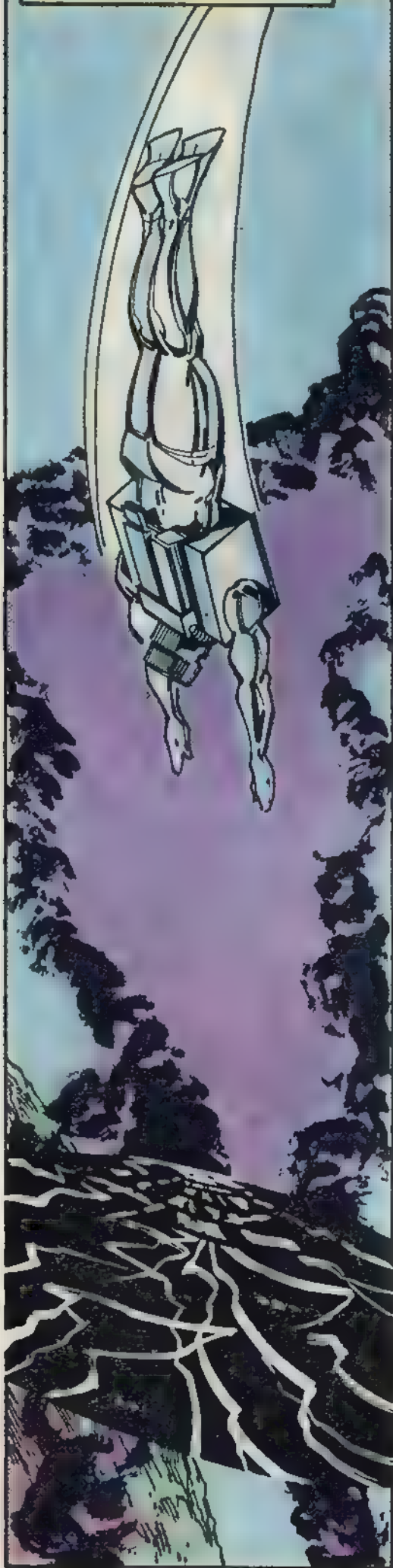
THUS, IF I SUCCEED IN BANISHING YOU TODAY--



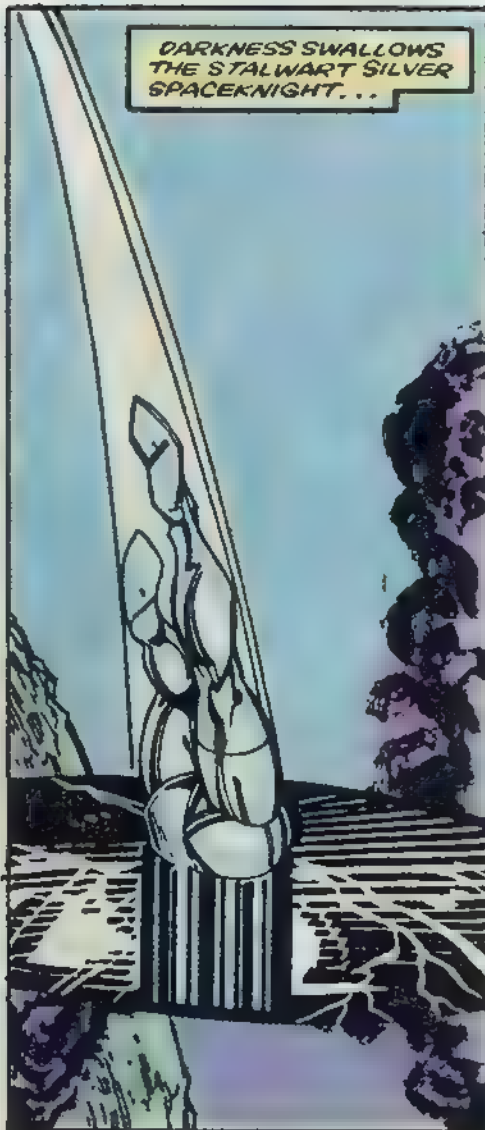
-- THE WRAITH WAR FOR EARTH WILL BE AT AN END!

THE WRAITHS CONTINUE THEIR DIVE DOWN INTO THE STAR DISC'S ALL ENCOMPASSING DARKNESS...

... AND PERCEIVING THE POSSIBILITY OF FINALLY ENDING THE CONFLICT WHICH HAS COST HIM THE LOSS OF BOTH HIS WORLD AND HIS HUMANITY, ROM, ROCKET-PODS ROARING PLUNGES DOWN INTO THE PULSATING, BLACK HEART OF THE STAR DISC AFTER HIS ALIEN ENEMIES!



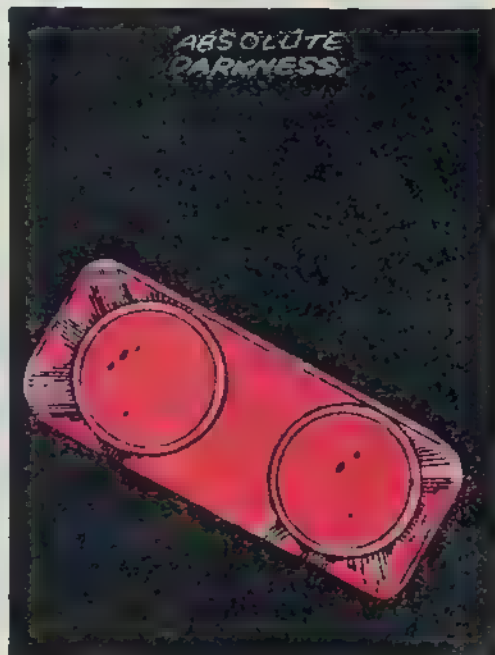
DARKNESS SWALLOWS THE STALWART SILVER SPACEKNIGHT...



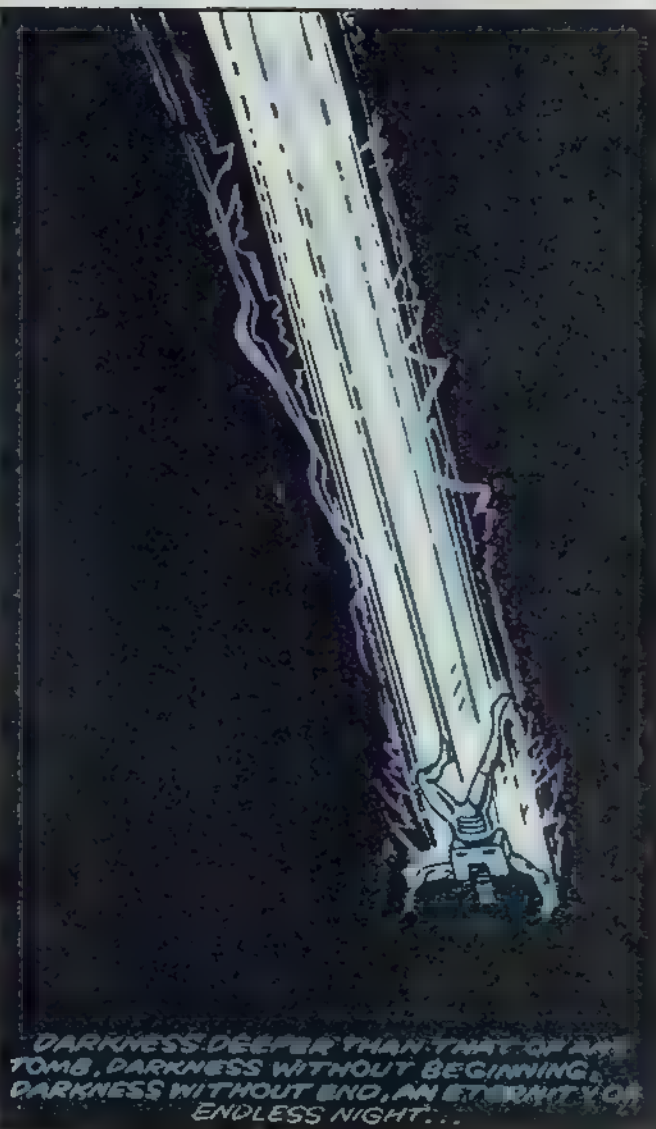
ABJECT DARKNESS.



ABSOLUTE DARKNESS.



... IN WHICH EVEN THE SOUL OF A SPACEKNIGHT MIGHT EASILY BE LOST FOREVER!



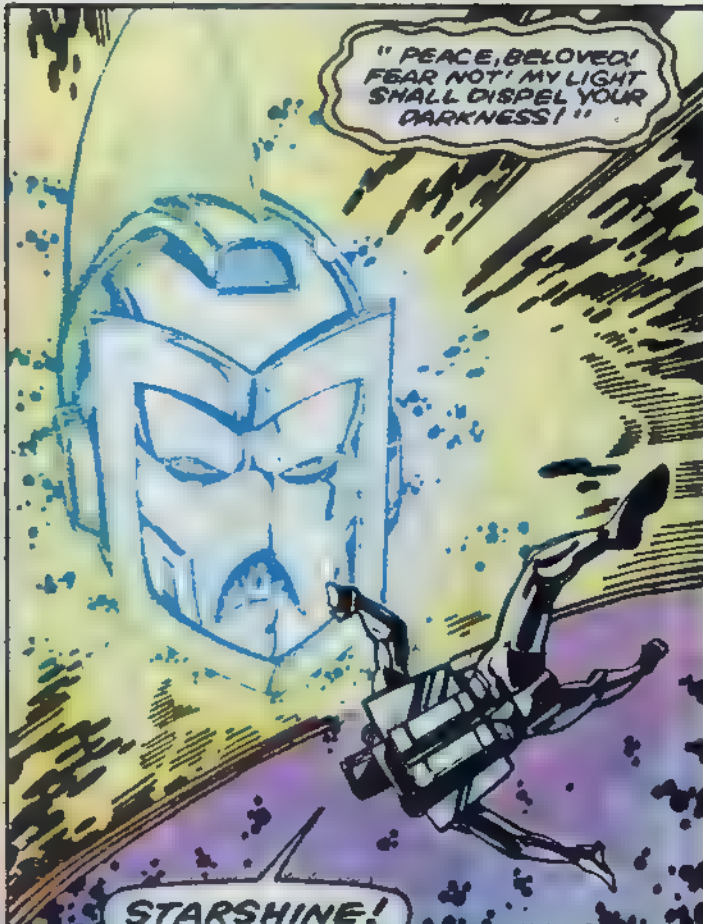
DARKNESS DEEPER THAN THAT OF ANY TOMB, DARKNESS WITHOUT BEGINNING, DARKNESS WITHOUT END, AN ETERNITY OF ENDLESS NIGHT...



THEN A RIFT OPENS
IN ROM'S DARKNESS...



...AND THROUGH
THAT RIFT SHINES--
LIGHT!

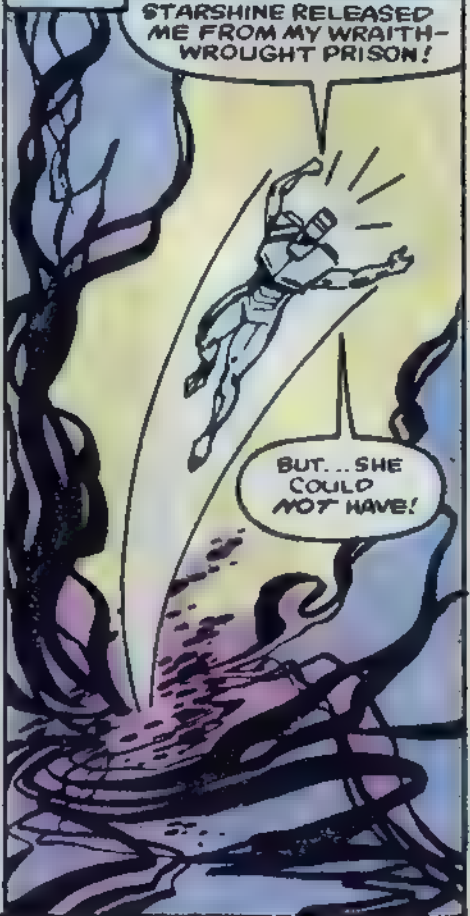


"PEACE, BELOVED!
FEAR NOT! MY LIGHT
SHALL DISPEL YOUR
DARKNESS!"

STARSHINE!

FOR ONE BRIEF, SHINING MOMENT THE GLOW FROM
THE GOLDEN SPACEKNIGHT FLARES FORTH IN THE
STAR DISC'S ABYSSMAL DARKNESS.

...AND THEN ROM FINDS THE
DARKNESS DISPELLED, AND HIM-
SELF FREED FROM HIS SHADOWY
CELL...

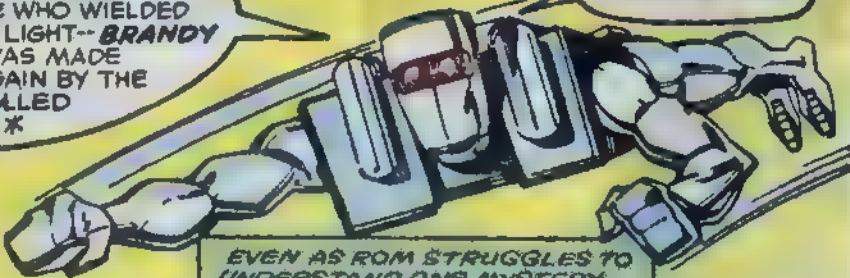


STARSHINE RELEASED
ME FROM MY WRAITH-
WROUGHT PRISON!

BUT... SHE
COULD
NOT HAVE!

STARSHINE NO LONGER
EXISTS! SHE WHO WIELDED
THE LIVING LIGHT--BRANDY
CLARK--WAS MADE
HUMAN AGAIN BY THE
HORROR CALLED
HYBRID! *

THEN, HOW--?

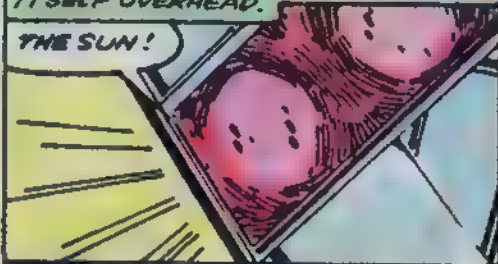


EVEN AS ROM STRUGGLES TO
UNDERSTAND ONE MYSTERY...

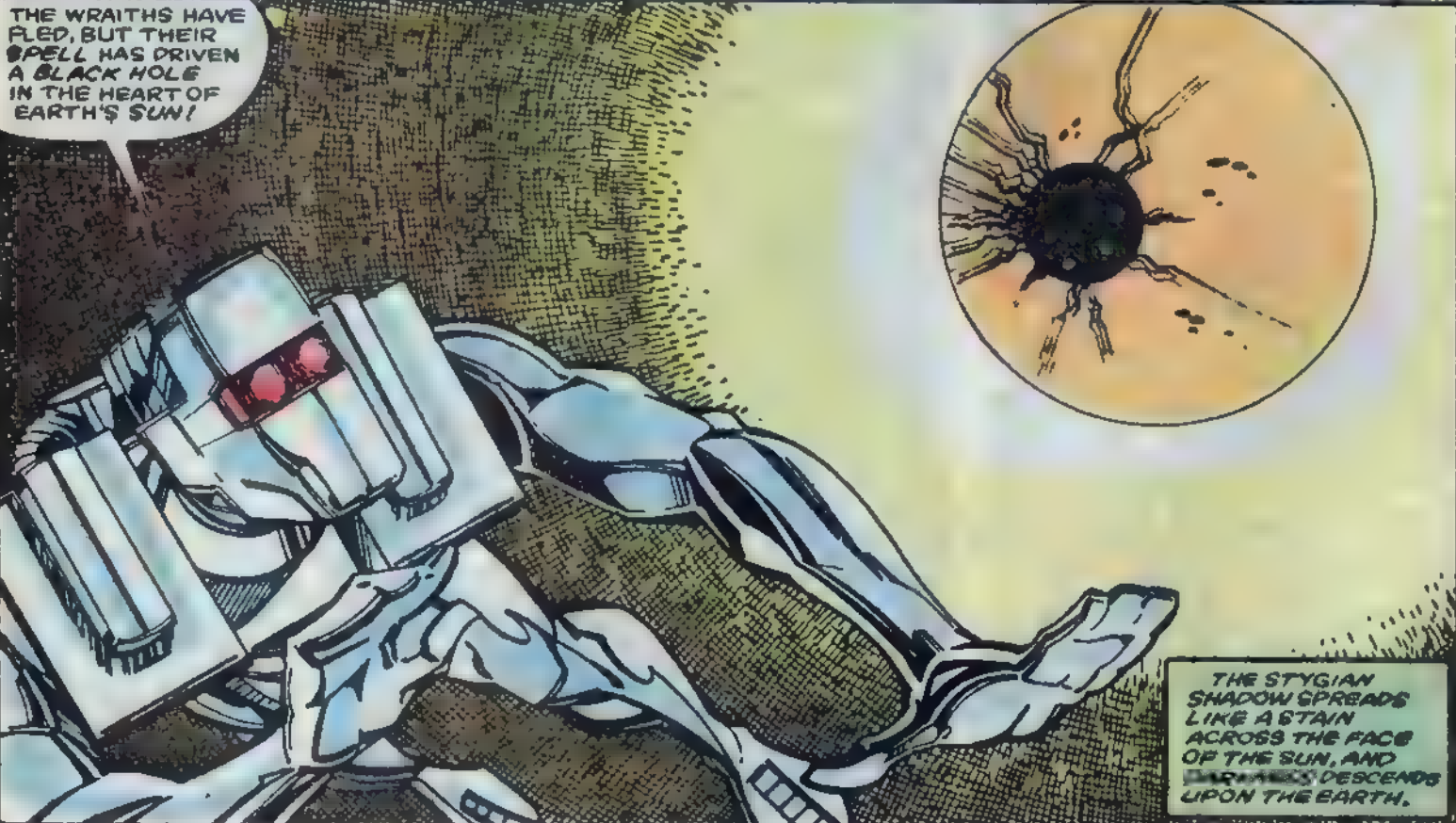
*SEE
ROM
ANNUAL
#3.

...A PHENOMENON OF A FAR MORE
SERIOUS NATURE MANIFESTS
ITSELF OVERHEAD.

THE SUN!



THE WRAITHS HAVE
FLED, BUT THEIR
SPELL HAS DRIVEN
A BLACK HOLE
IN THE HEART OF
EARTH'S SUN!



THE STYGIAN
SHADOW SPREADS
LIKE A STAIN
ACROSS THE FACE
OF THE SUN, AND
DARKNESS DESCENDS
UPON THE EARTH.

DARK DAYS LATER, AT THE MOBILE COMMAND CAMP OF THE WRAITH-HUNTER RANGERS...

S.H.I.E.L.D.'S ESPER AGENTS HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO DETECT THE WRAITHS FOR OVER A WEEK NOW!

IF THOSE TELEPATHIC TRACKERS CAN'T LOCATE THE SPACE SCUM, WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO?

WE CAN'T FIGHT AN ENEMY WE CAN'T FIND!

THE HOLE IN THE SUN GROWS SLOWLY -- BUT STEADILY -- EACH DAY!

IT DOESN'T SHOW UP ON ANY OF OUR INSTRUMENTS! AS FAR AS SCIENCE IS CONCERNED, THE HOLE DOESN'T EVEN EXIST!

BUT THE HOLE IN EARTH'S SUN DOES EXIST...

* SUPREME HEADQUARTERS INTERNATIONAL ESPIONAGE LAW-ENFORCEMENT DIVISION.

... AND SO GENERAL MERRIWETHER LOCKLIN -- COMMANDER OF THE RANGERS -- CALLS A CRISIS CONFERENCE. THERE HE BRIEFS THOSE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WHO ARE AWARE OF THE EXTENT OF THE WRAITH INFILTRATION OF OUR PLANET.

TO BE QUITE HONEST, GENERAL, WE ARE ALL STUMPED!

YOUR SCIENTISTS HAVE DONE THEIR BEST --

-- BUT WHATEVER THAT BLACK HOLE IS IT'S MYSTICAL IN ORIGIN, AND PERHAPS ONLY MAGIC CAN UNDO IT!

MAGIC... OR A SCIENCE FAR BEYOND ANY WE POSSESS NOW!

WHAT ARE YOU SUGGESTING, GENERAL? THAT WE ALL PUT AWAY OUR SUN TAN LOTION AND WAIT PATIENTLY FOR THE END?

THERE'S A PANIC STARTING ACROSS THE ENTIRE GLOBE! PEOPLE ARE SCARED! THEY WANT TO KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING!

THE WORLD WANTS ANSWERS!!!

IS THAT WHAT THE PRESIDENT SENT YOU HERE TO TELL ME, AGENT GYRICH? I'VE BEEN FIGHTING THIS BLASTED WRAITH MENACE IN SECRET, BEGGING FOR DISCLOSURE, FOR MONTHS NOW --

-- WHILE ALL THE GOVERNMENT DID WAS COVER UP THE FACT THAT PEOPLE WERE DYING!

SATURDAY MORNING

CONSIDER, FOR A MOMENT, THE SURPRISE IN STORE FOR YOU ON SATURDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 15TH. AS YOU LAY SLEEPING YOUR TELEVISION SUDDENLY COMES ALIVE!

HEY, WAKE UP. WAIT'LL YOU SEE WHAT'S COMING ON NBC.

IT'S A WHOLE NEW SEASON!

NEXT, KIDD VIDEO WILL TAKE YOU TO THE RIP SIDE OF THE UNIVERSE WHERE THE MASTER BLASTER IS WAGING A BATTLE TO RULE THE ENTIRE ROCK AND ROLL WORLD.

NEW SHOW!

KIDD VIDEO

BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, MR. T WILL TAKE OVER.

PITY THE FOOL WHO MESSES WITH THE CHANNEL CHANGER!

RIGHT, T!

MR. T

FOR THE NEXT 1/2 HOUR YOU EXPLORE A FANTASTIC UNDERSEA WORLD WHERE YOU'LL UNCOVER INCREDIBLE CREATURES KNOWN ONLY AS THE SNORKS.

NEW SHOW!

SNORKS

NEXT, YOU'LL SURFACE IN THE PINK PANTHER'S BACKYARD AND MEET HIS KIDS, PINKY AND PANKY, AND THEIR RIVALS - A PACK OF LIONS KNOWN AS "HOWL'S ANGELS".

NEW SHOW!

THE PINK PANTHER AND SONS

BY THE TIME HE'S DONE, YOU'LL BE GOING BANANAS WITH A REAL LIFE DRANGUTAN NAMED ROXANNA BANANA.

NEW SHOW!

GOING BANANAS

THEN SPIDER-MAN AND HIS AMAZING FRIENDS WILL JOIN FORCES TO MAKE THE WHOLE WORLD SAFE FOR DEMOCRACY... 'SPECIALLY ON YOUR BLOCK!'

SPIDER-MAN AND HIS AMAZING FRIENDS

NEXT DOOR, YOU'LL FIND THE SMURF VILLAGE - RIGHT WHERE IT'S ALWAYS BEEN!

IT'S GOING TO BE SMURFIER THAN EVER!

SMURFS

AS YOU LEAVE, ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS WILL BE WAITING TO ROCK YOUR SOCKS OFF WITH THEIR VERSIONS OF HITS LIKE "BEAT IT" AND "GIRLS JUST WANT TO HAVE FUN".

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS

AND FIVE TIMES DURING THE MORNING YOUR FAVORITE NBC STARS WILL GIVE YOU ONE TO GROW ON!

ONE TO GROW ON™

IT ALL BEGINS SEPTEMBER 15TH ON NBC. SO...

LET'S ALL BE THERE



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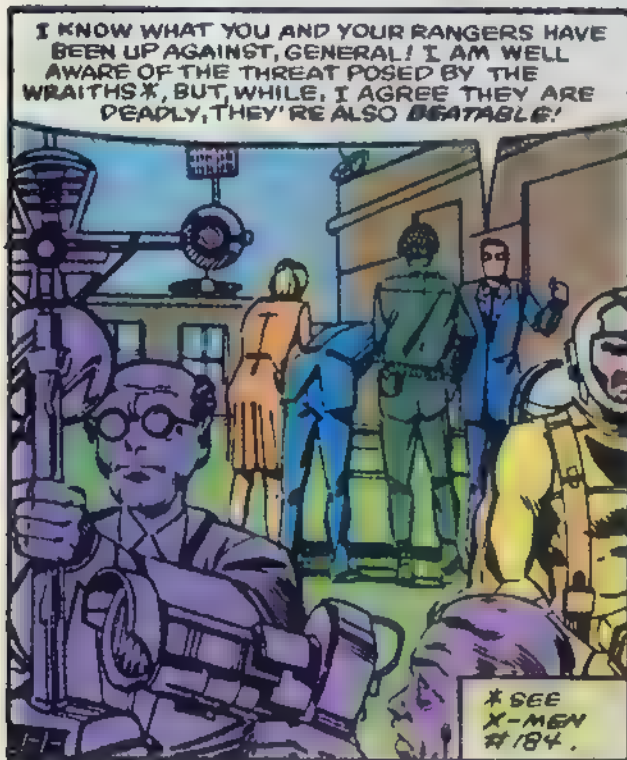
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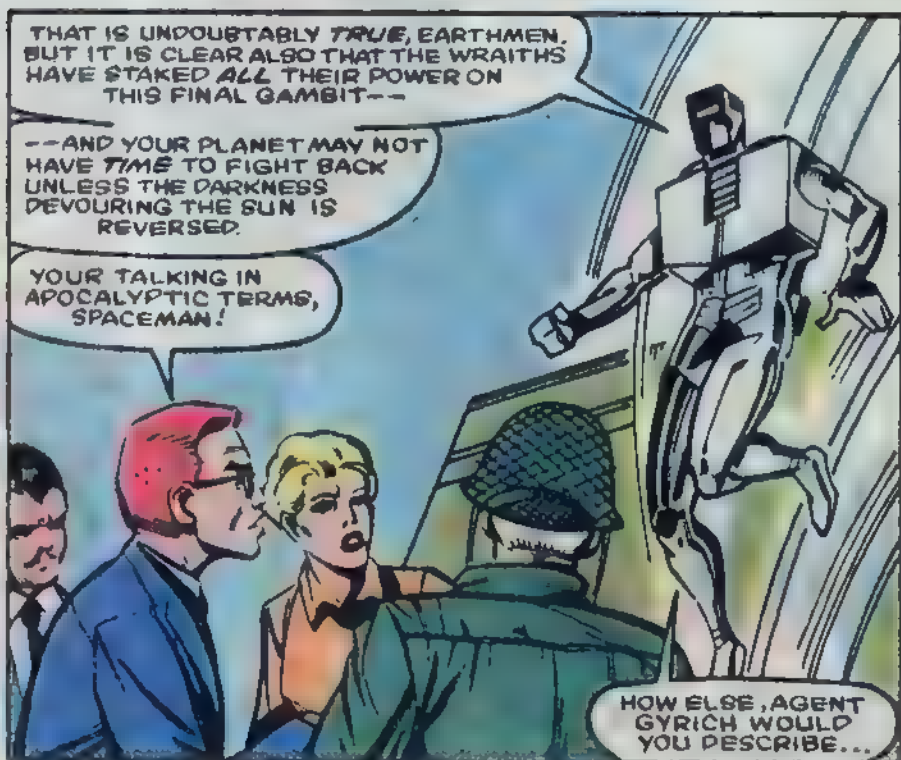
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I KNOW WHAT YOU AND YOUR RANGERS HAVE BEEN UP AGAINST, GENERAL! I AM WELL AWARE OF THE THREAT POSED BY THE WRAITHS*, BUT, WHILE, I AGREE THEY ARE DEADLY, THEY'RE ALSO BEATABLE!

* SEE X-MEN #184.

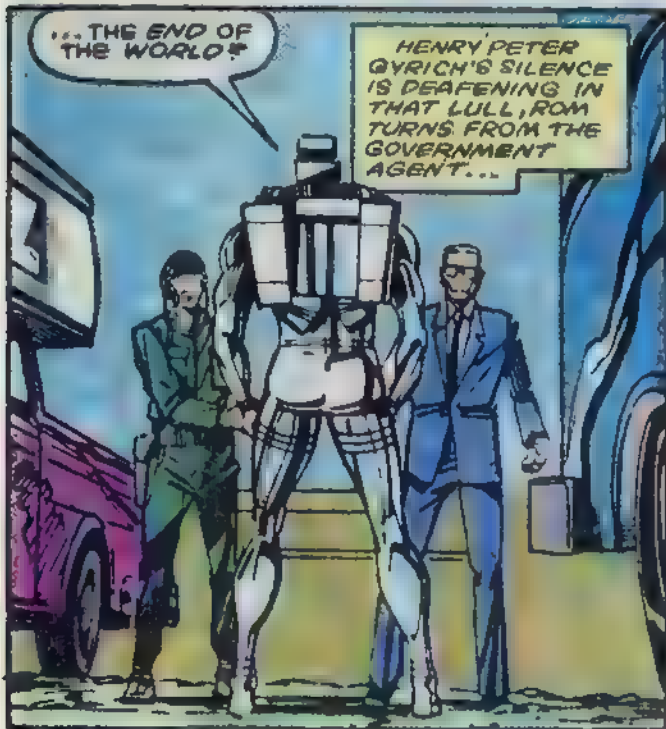


THAT IS UNDOUBTABLY TRUE, EARTHMEN. BUT IT IS CLEAR ALSO THAT THE WRAITHS HAVE STAKED ALL THEIR POWER ON THIS FINAL GAMBIT--

--AND YOUR PLANET MAY NOT HAVE TIME TO FIGHT BACK UNLESS THE DARKNESS DEVOURING THE SUN IS REVERSED.

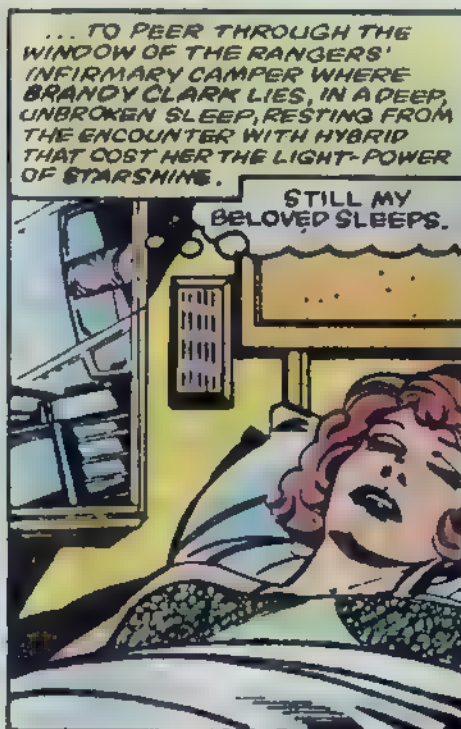
YOUR TALKING IN APOCALYPTIC TERMS, SPACEMAN!

HOW ELSE, AGENT GYRICH WOULD YOU DESCRIBE...



... THE END OF THE WORLD?

HENRY PETER GYRICH'S SILENCE IS DEAFENING IN THAT LULL, ROM TURNS FROM THE GOVERNMENT AGENT...

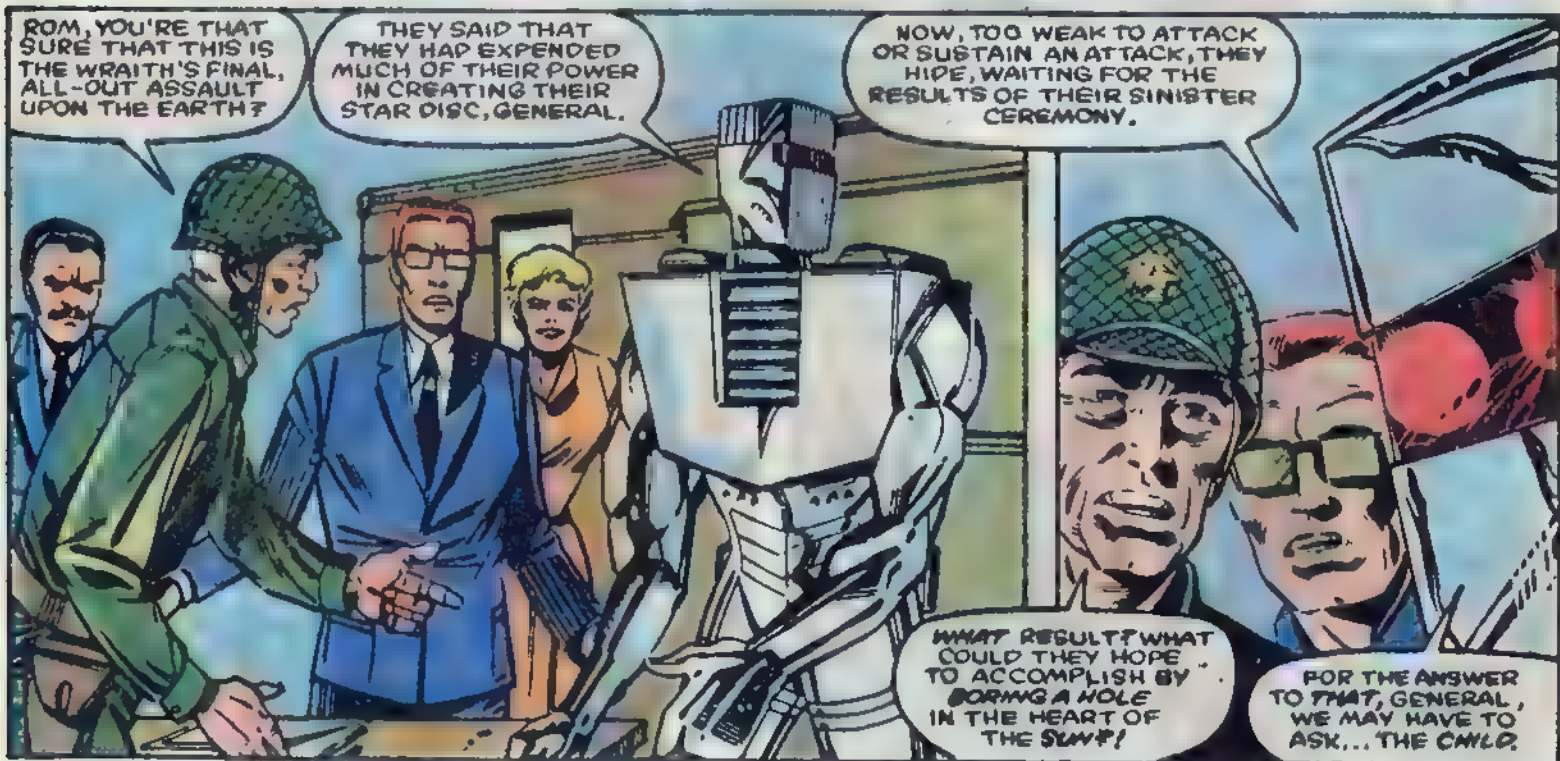


... TO PEER THROUGH THE WINDOW OF THE RANGERS' INFIRMARY CAMPER WHERE BRANDY CLARK LIES, IN A DEEP, UNBROKEN SLEEP, RESTING FROM THE ENCOUNTER WITH HYBRID THAT COST HER THE LIGHT-POWER OF STARSHINE.

STILL MY BELOVED SLEEPS.



BUT IF IT WAS NOT SHE WHOSE LIGHTEYES SAVED ME FROM THE WRAITH'S DARKNESS... THEN WHO?



ROM, YOU'RE THAT SURE THAT THIS IS THE WRAITH'S FINAL, ALL-OUT ASSAULT UPON THE EARTH?

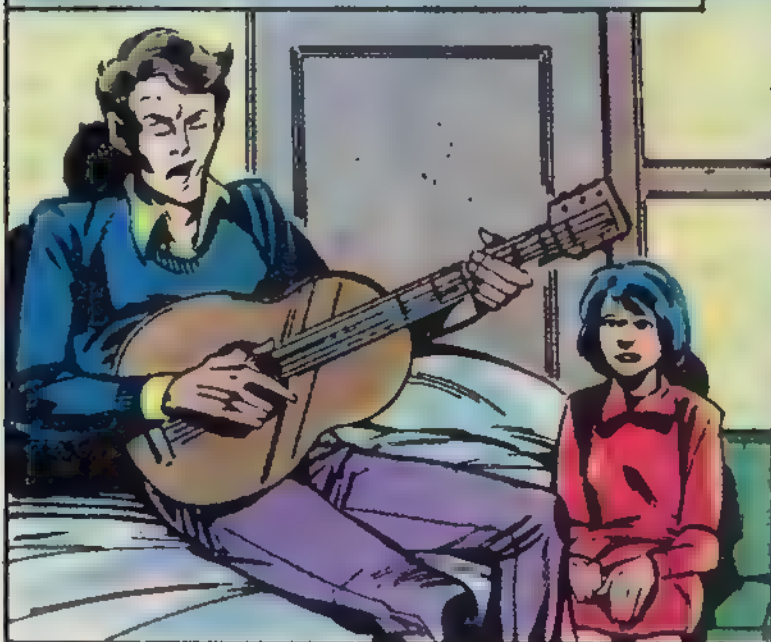
THEY SAID THAT THEY HAD EXPENDED MUCH OF THEIR POWER IN CREATING THEIR STAR DISC, GENERAL.

NOW, TOO WEAK TO ATTACK OR SUSTAIN AN ATTACK, THEY HIDE, WAITING FOR THE RESULTS OF THEIR SINISTER CEREMONY.

WHAT RESULT? WHAT COULD THEY HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH BY BORING A HOLE IN THE HEART OF THE SUN?

FOR THE ANSWER TO THAT, GENERAL, WE MAY HAVE TO ASK... THE CHILD.

HER NAME IS CINDY ADAMS. SHE IS ELEVEN YEARS OLD. IT TOOK RICK JONES NEARLY TWO WEEKS TO ELICIT EVEN THAT MUCH INFORMATION FROM HER-- TO BREAK DOWN THE BARRIERS SHE'D ERECTED TO DEFEND HERSELF FROM THE TERROR ASSAULTING HER SOUL --



-- HIS SONGS HELPED BRIDGE THE GULF BETWEEN THEM.

HIS SONGS, AND PERHAPS THE FACT THAT HE WHO SINGS THEM IS ALSO SUFFERING...



... AS A KILLING CANCER EATS ITS WAY THROUGH RICK'S CELLS.

YET, SITTING IN RICK'S DARKENED CAMPER AND LISTENING TO HIS SONGS, CINDY'S SOUL IS SOOTHED...

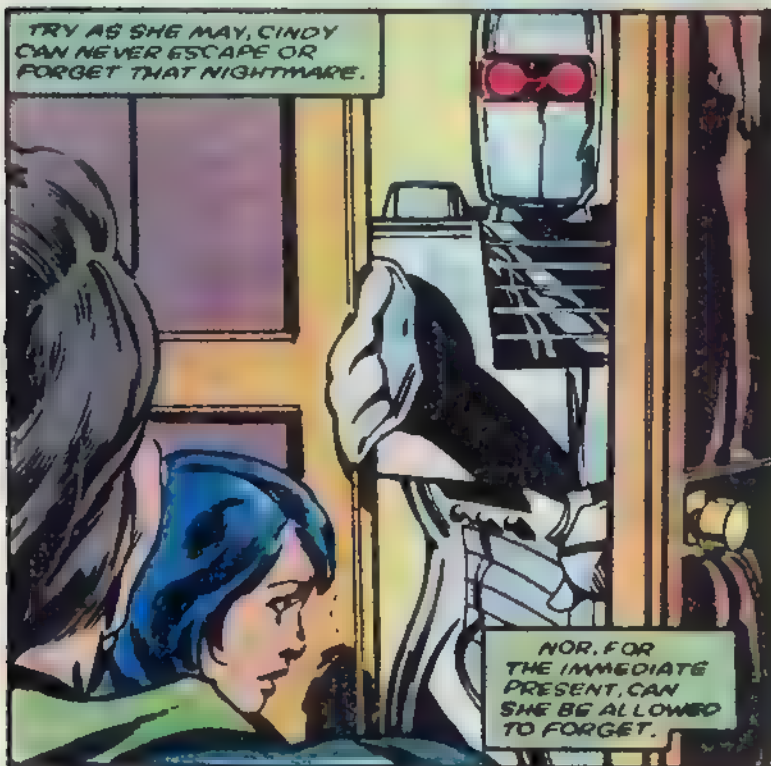


... BUT EVER LURKING ON THE SHADOWY PERIPHERY OF HER CONSCIOUSNESS IS THE HORRIFYING REALIZATION THAT HER SOUL IS NO LONGER HER'S ALONE, BUT IS SHARED BY THE DIABOLICAL FIRE WRAITH WHO--IN TRYING TO STEAL CINDY'S IDENTITY-- DIED WITHIN HER MIND INSTEAD.*



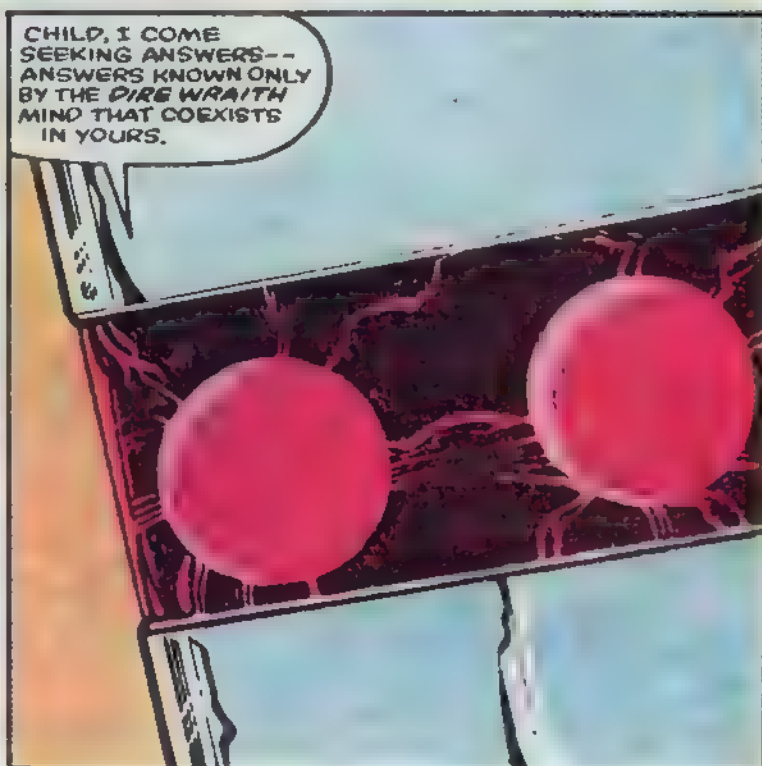
* LAST ISH.

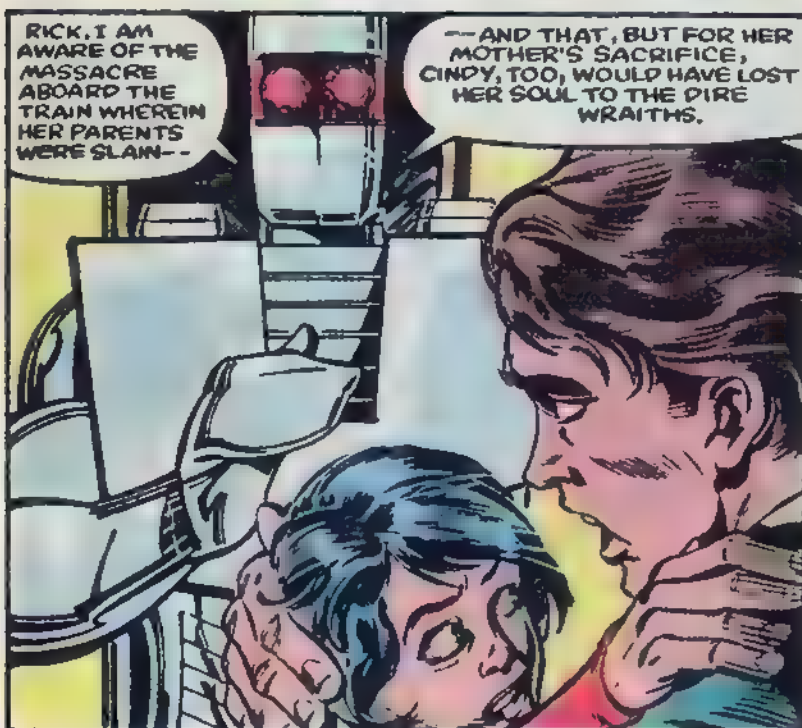
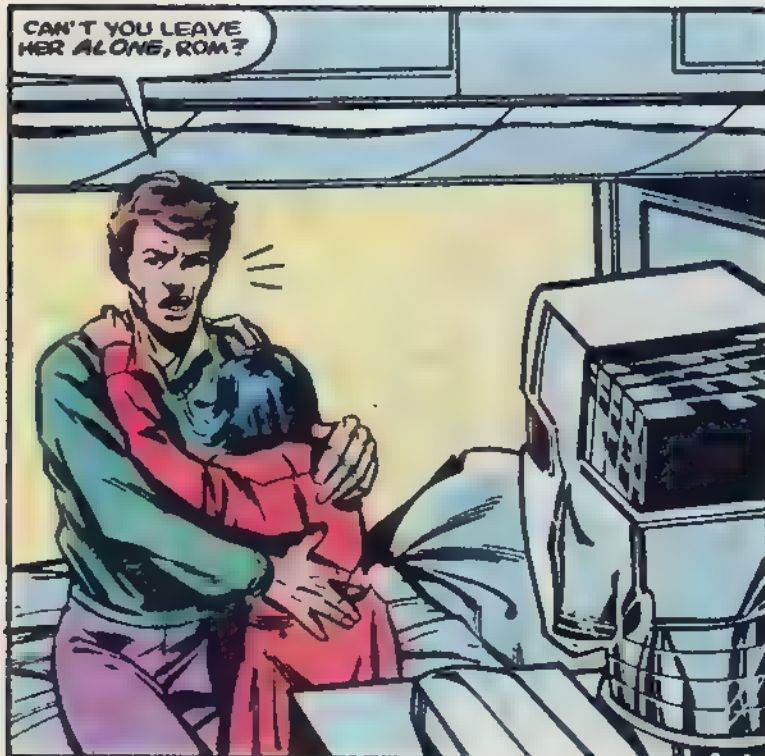
TRY AS SHE MAY, CINDY CAN NEVER ESCAPE OR FORGET THAT NIGHTMARE.



NOR, FOR THE IMMEDIATE PRESENT, CAN SHE BE ALLOWED TO FORGET.

CHILD, I COME SEEKING ANSWERS-- ANSWERS KNOWN ONLY BY THE FIRE WRAITH MIND THAT COEXISTS IN YOURS.





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(EACH ACTION FIGURE
HAS A SECRET DECODING
SHIELD AND A SECRET
ACCESSORY.)

JUST
SLIP
THE
SECRET
ACCESSORY



ATTACH
THE
SECRET
ACCESSORY

THE
SECRET
ACCESSORY
IS
NOW
IN
PLACE



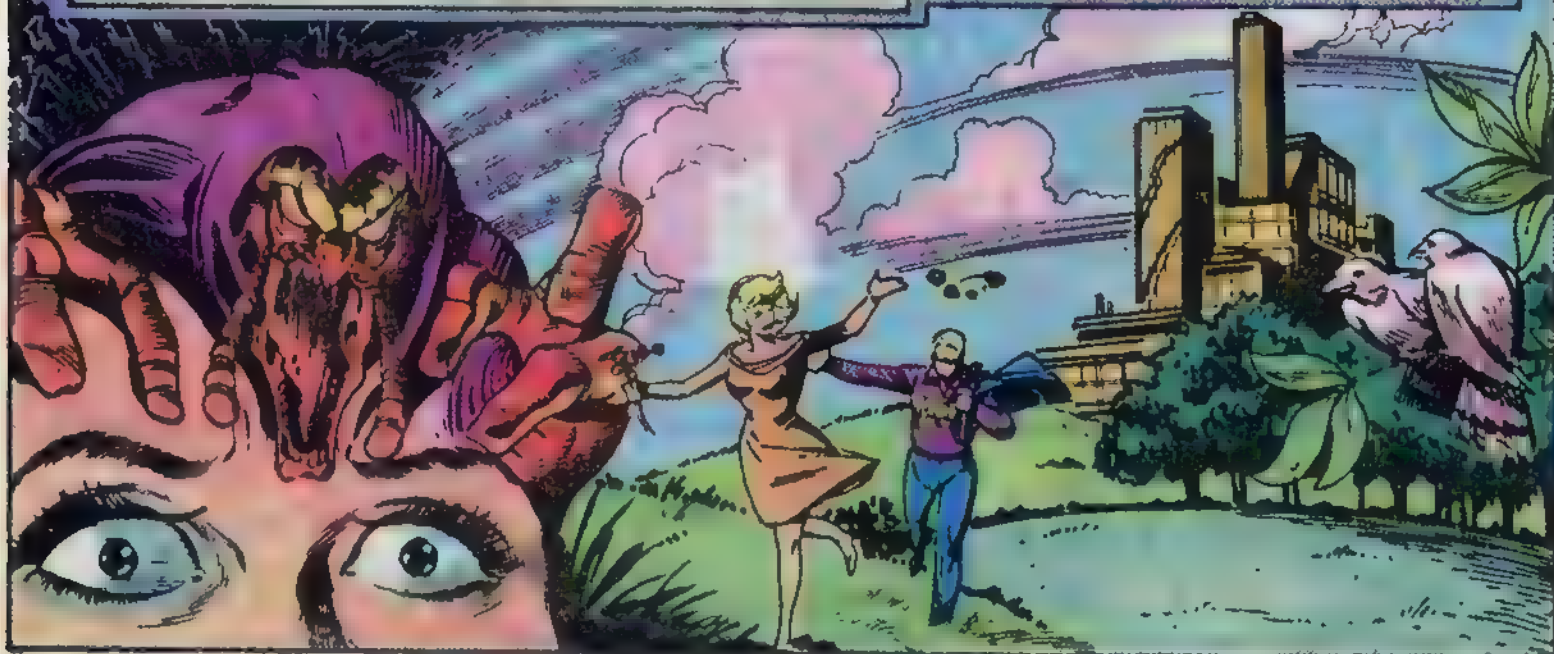
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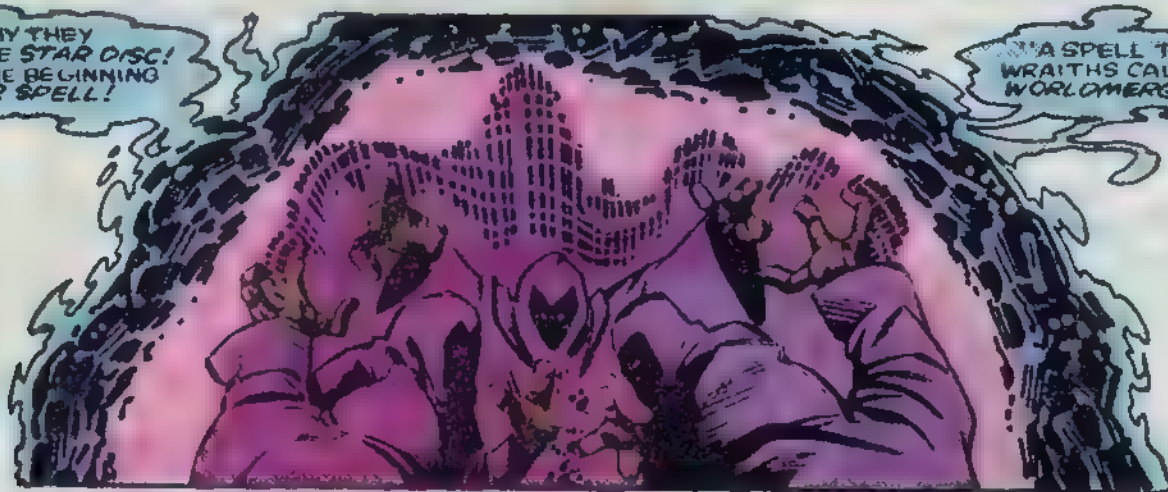
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"-- OUR WORLD AS THE WRAITHS SEE IT! THAT WHICH IS BEAUTIFUL TO US IS HORRIBLE TO THEM! THEY HATE THE IDEA THAT EVERYTHING IS ALIVE, THAT PEOPLE LOVE, THAT FLOWERS GROW AND BIRDS SING! THEY HATE BEING TRAPPED HERE, BUT THEY CAN'T ESCAPE!"



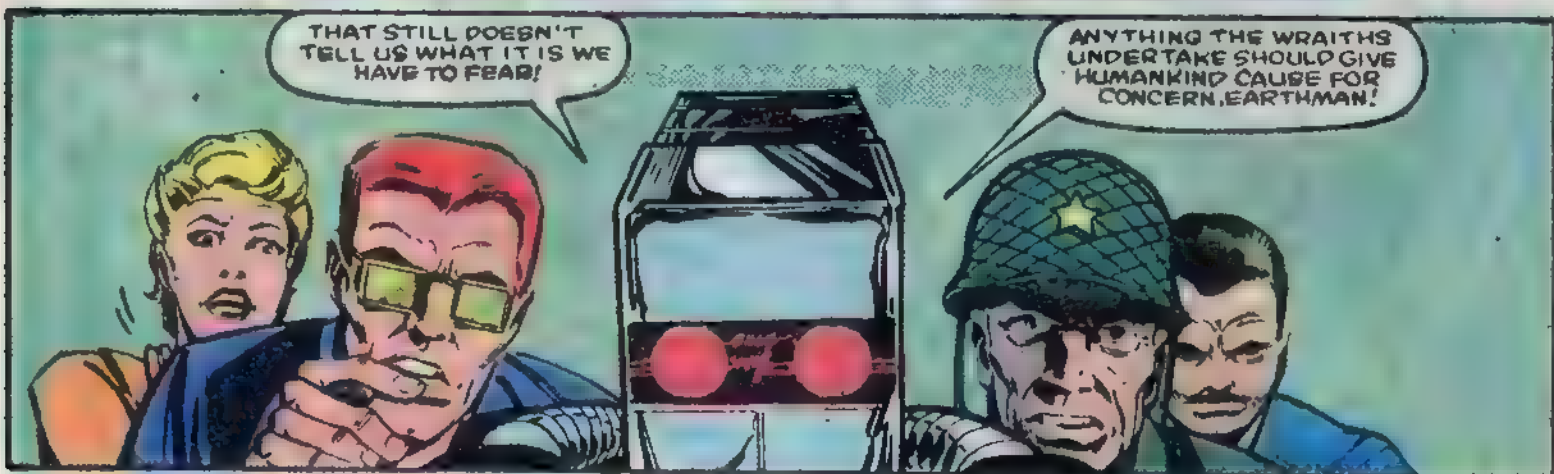
"THAT'S WHY THEY CREATED THE STAR DISC! IT'S JUST THE BEGINNING OF A BIGGER SPELL!"

"A SPELL THE WRAITHS CALL... THE WORLDMERGE!"



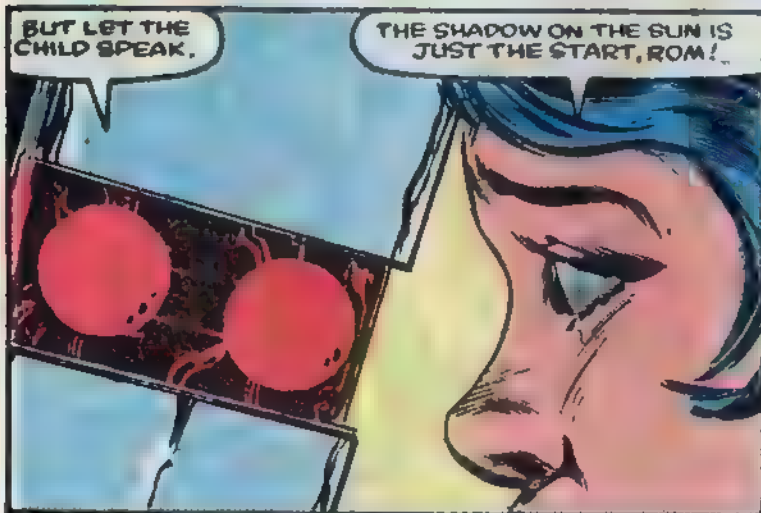
THAT STILL DOESN'T TELL US WHAT IT IS WE HAVE TO FEAR!

ANYTHING THE WRAITHS UNDERTAKE SHOULD GIVE HUMANKIND CAUSE FOR CONCERN, EARTHMAN!



BUT LET THE CHILD SPEAK.

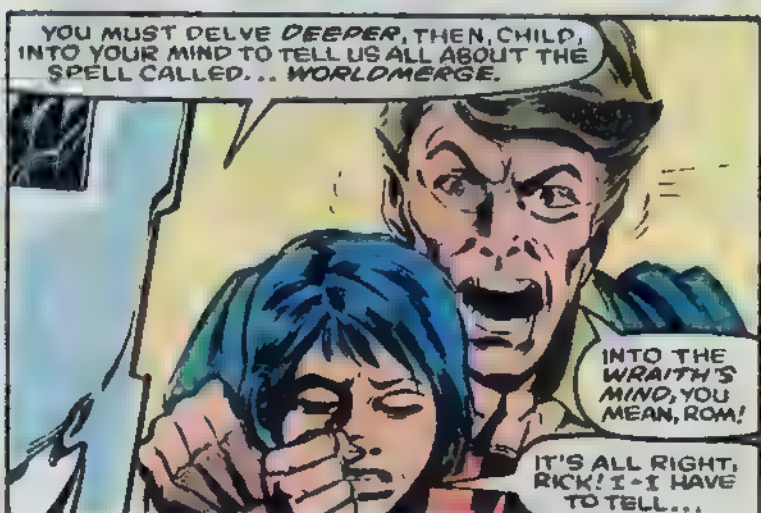
THE SHADOW ON THE SUN IS JUST THE START, ROM!



YOU MUST DELVE DEEPER, THEN, CHILD, INTO YOUR MIND TO TELL US ALL ABOUT THE SPELL CALLED... WORLDMERGE.

INTO THE WRAITH'S MIND, YOU MEAN, ROM!

IT'S ALL RIGHT, RICK! I-I HAVE TO TELL...



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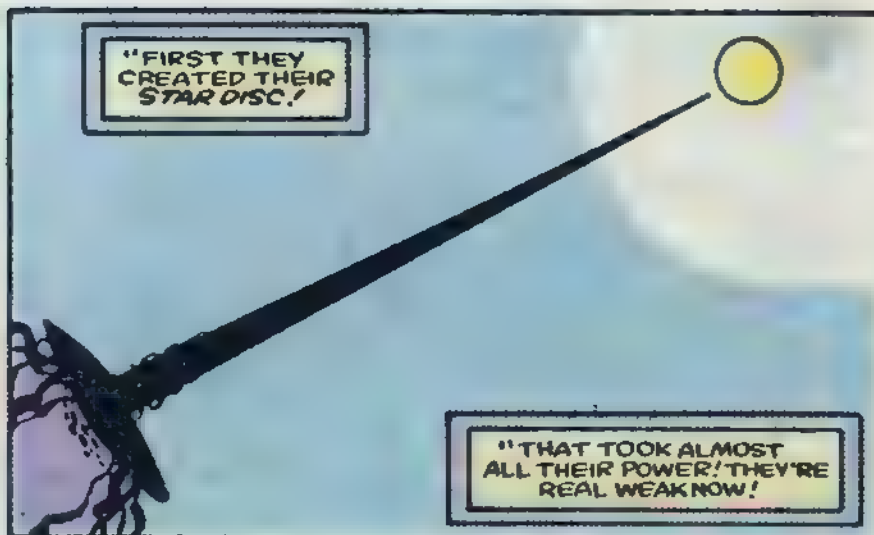
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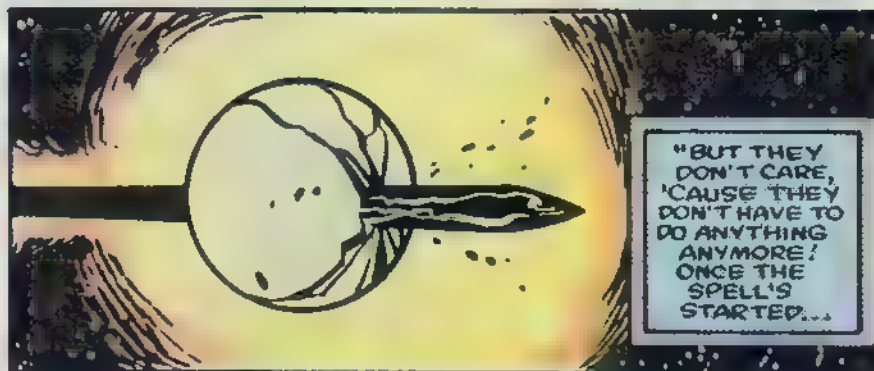
"TO TELL NOW IT IS THE WRAITHS MEAN TO DESTROY OUR WORLD, 'CAUSE THAT IS WHAT THEY'RE GOING TO DO YOU KNOW!"



"FIRST THEY CREATED THEIR STAR DISC!"

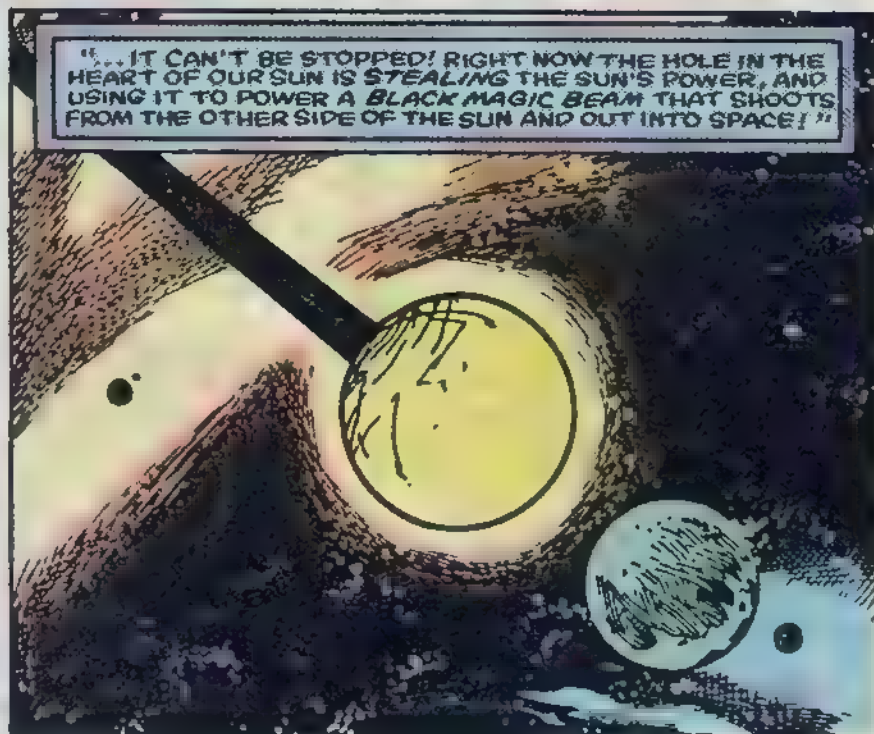


"THAT TOOK ALMOST ALL THEIR POWER! THEY'RE REAL WEAK NOW!"



"BUT THEY DON'T CARE, 'CAUSE THEY DON'T HAVE TO DO ANYTHING ANYMORE! ONCE THE SPELL'S STARTED..."

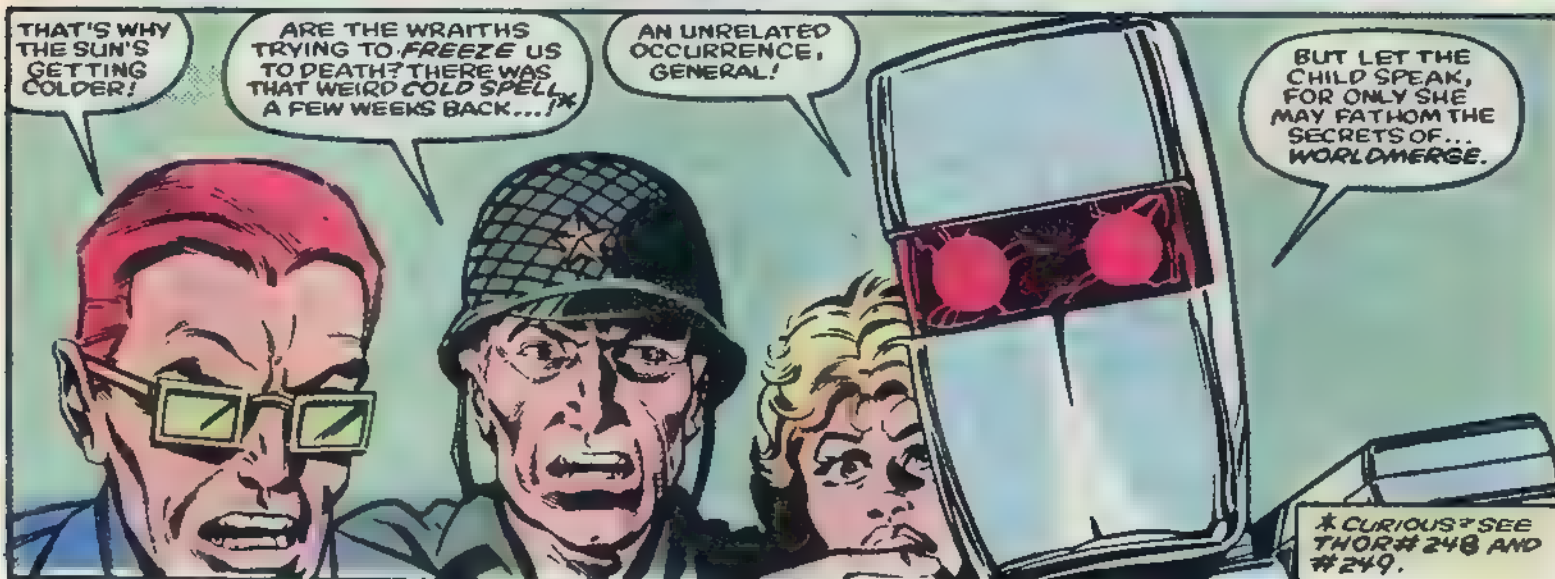
"...IT CAN'T BE STOPPED! RIGHT NOW THE HOLE IN THE HEART OF OUR SUN IS STEALING THE SUN'S POWER, AND USING IT TO POWER A BLACK MAGIC BEAM THAT SHOOTS FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SUN AND OUT INTO SPACE!"



THAT'S WHY THE SUN'S GETTING COLDER!

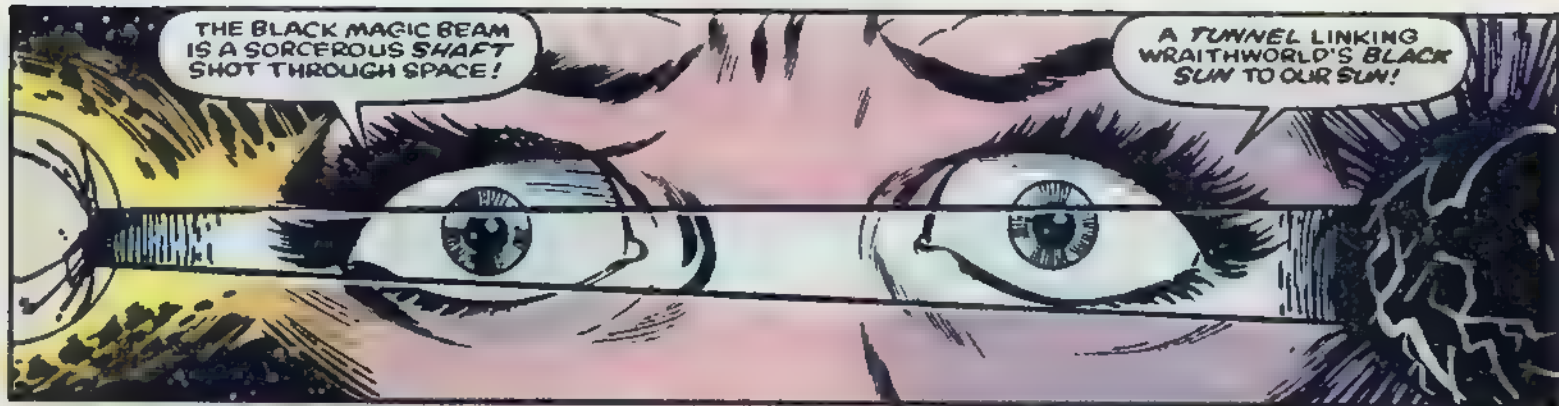
ARE THE WRAITHS TRYING TO FREEZE US TO DEATH? THERE WAS THAT WEIRD COLD SPELL A FEW WEEKS BACK...!

AN UNRELATED OCCURRENCE, GENERAL!



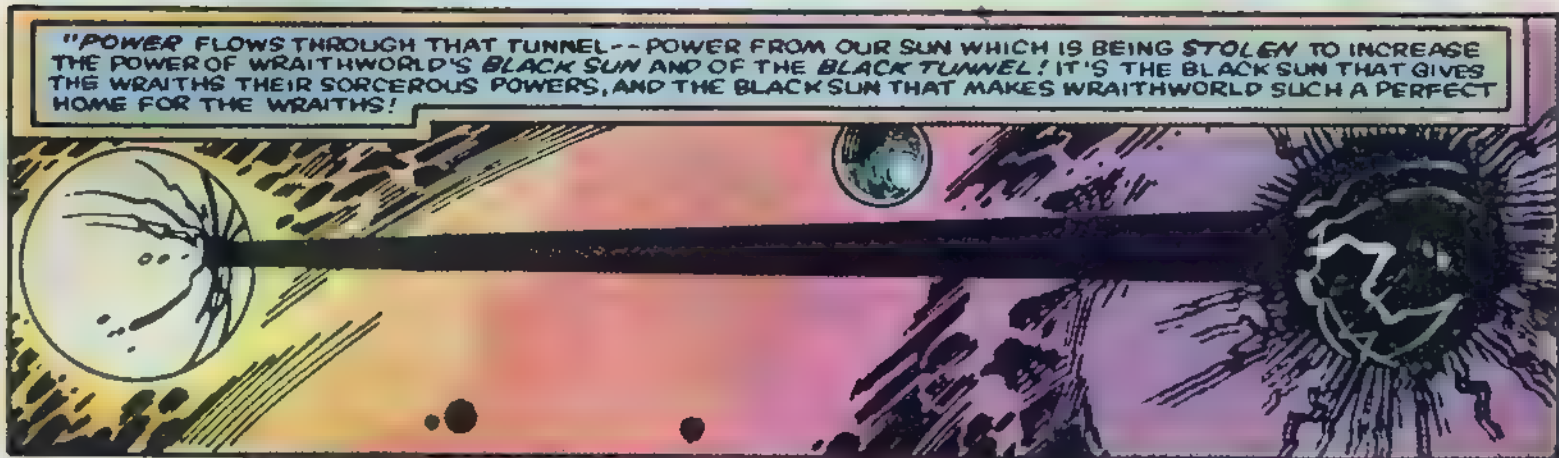
BUT LET THE CHILD SPEAK, FOR ONLY SHE MAY FATHOM THE SECRETS OF... WORLDMERGE.

*CURIOUS? SEE THOR #248 AND #249.

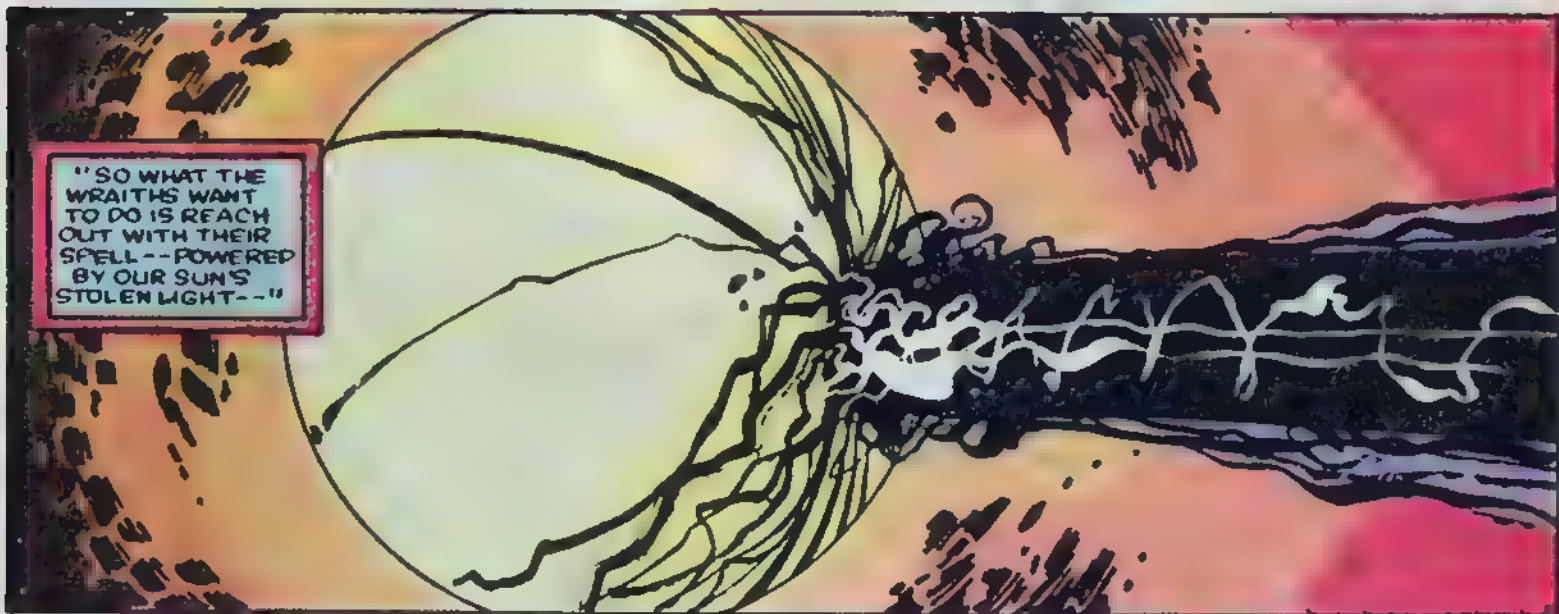


THE BLACK MAGIC BEAM
IS A SORCEROUS SHAFT
SHOT THROUGH SPACE!

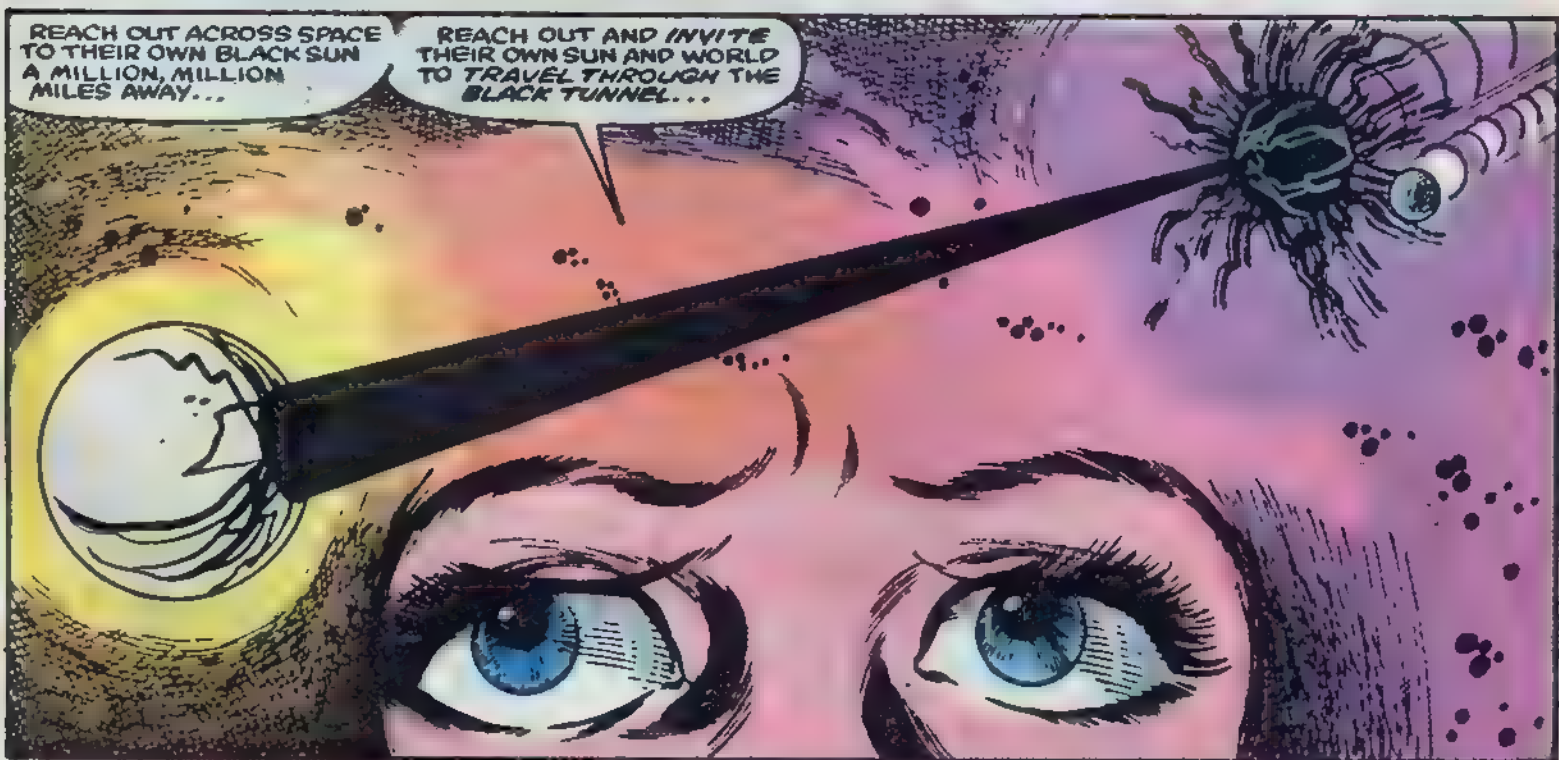
A TUNNEL LINKING
WRAITHWORLD'S BLACK
SUN TO OUR SUN!



"POWER FLOWS THROUGH THAT TUNNEL-- POWER FROM OUR SUN WHICH IS BEING STOLEN TO INCREASE THE POWER OF WRAITHWORLD'S *BLACK SUN* AND OF THE *BLACK TUNNEL*! IT'S THE BLACK SUN THAT GIVES THE WRAITHS THEIR SORCEROUS POWERS, AND THE BLACK SUN THAT MAKES WRAITHWORLD SUCH A PERFECT HOME FOR THE WRAITHS!



"SO WHAT THE
WRAITHS WANT
TO DO IS REACH
OUT WITH THEIR
SPELL-- POWERED
BY OUR SUN'S
STOLEN LIGHT--"



REACH OUT ACROSS SPACE
TO THEIR OWN BLACK SUN
A MILLION, MILLION
MILES AWAY...

REACH OUT AND INVITE
THEIR OWN SUN AND WORLD
TO TRAVEL THROUGH THE
BLACK TUNNEL...

Bullpen Bulletins

On Monday, June 4, 1984, Sol Brodsky passed away.

Most of you probably never heard of him, or, if you did, very likely you didn't pay much attention. Sol didn't spend a lot of effort trying to get headlines, or fighting to get his name bigger in the credits. He was too busy getting things *done*, invariably on time and under budget, so that someone else could get the glory.

Typically, at this point in one of these things, the writer launches into a long and thoroughly boring list of the many behind-the-scenes contributions of the deceased. Forget it. There isn't enough room here, or in a thousand of these columns. Besides, I think Sol would want this short and sweet (and on time, and under budget). Suffice it to say, therefore, that he was one of the all-time biggies in this industry. Sure, he was Stan Lee's right hand during the early years here, but he was no mere backstage helper-outer / man-Friday, you understand. He was a force. A shaper. A builder.

He did a lot to help get us — the comics biz — this far.

Now he's gone. We'll remember him, of course, because of what he did — but more, because of the way he did it. He was a fine, fine man.

Jim Shooter
Jim Shooter



SOL BRODSKY

1923-1984

Production Manager
Vice-President, Operations
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THE HYPE BOX

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AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #18 — Face front, true believers! This amazing annual features the return of "The Man" readers around the world have been clamoring for! That's right, SMILING STAN LEE is back, scripting the tale of one of the most eventful days in Spidey's life! And when Daily Bugle publisher J. Jonah Jameson gets married, you just know that this will be a wedding that no one will ever forget! Read "The Scorpion Takes a Bride!" Plot by TOM DEFALCO. Breakdowns by RON FRENZ. Finishes by BOB LAYTON and JACKSON "BUTCH" GUICE. Script by STAN LEE! Excelsior!

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- ☐ BUCKEROO SANZAI (Limited Series) #1 — Beginning Marvel's adaptation of the science fiction adventure movie!
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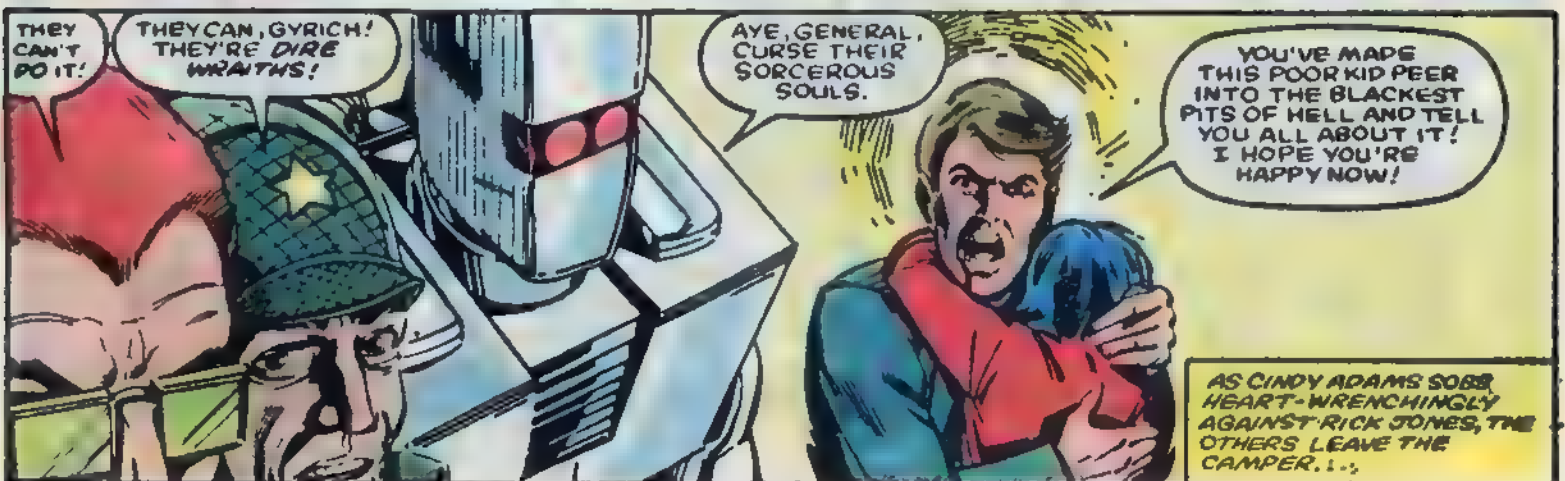
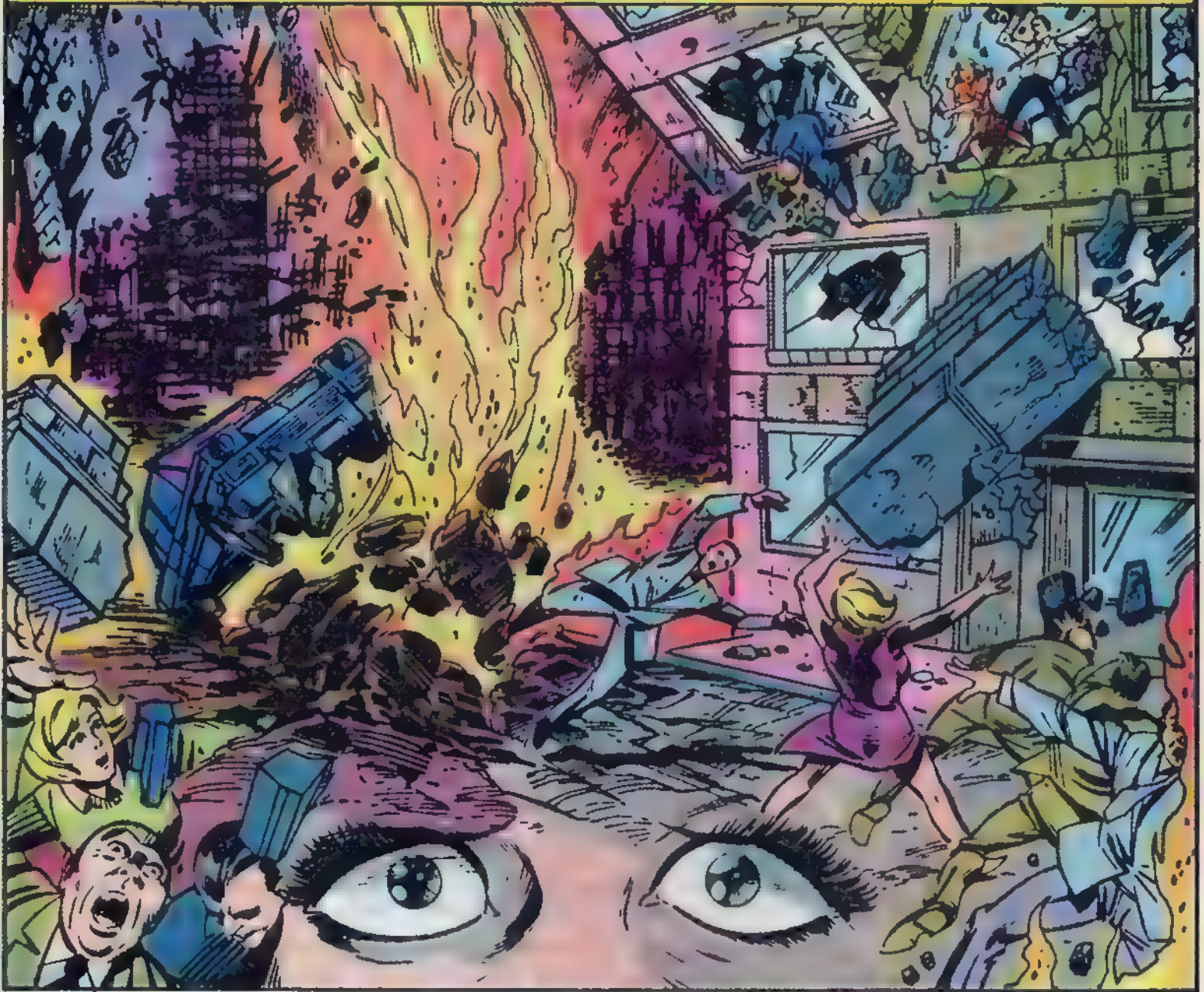
- ☐ DREADSTAR #14
- ☐ CRASH RYAN #1 — Adventure in a history that might have been! See Hype Box.
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"... UNTIL WRAITHWORLD AND ITS BLACK SUN START MOVING ON A COLLISION COURSE TOWARDS EARTH!

"ONLY THEY WON'T COLLIDE! THEY'LL **MERGE**-- OUR WORLD WITH WRAITHWORLD, OUR SUN WITH THEIRS-- AND EVERYBODY ON OUR PLANET WILL **DIE** AS EARTH BECOMES A PARADISE FOR THE DIRE WRAITHS!



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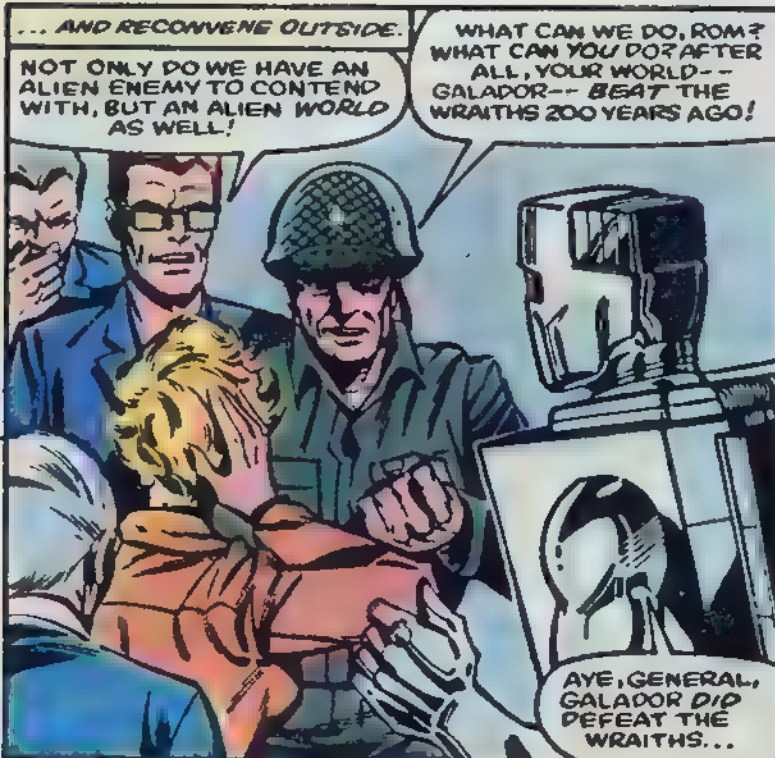
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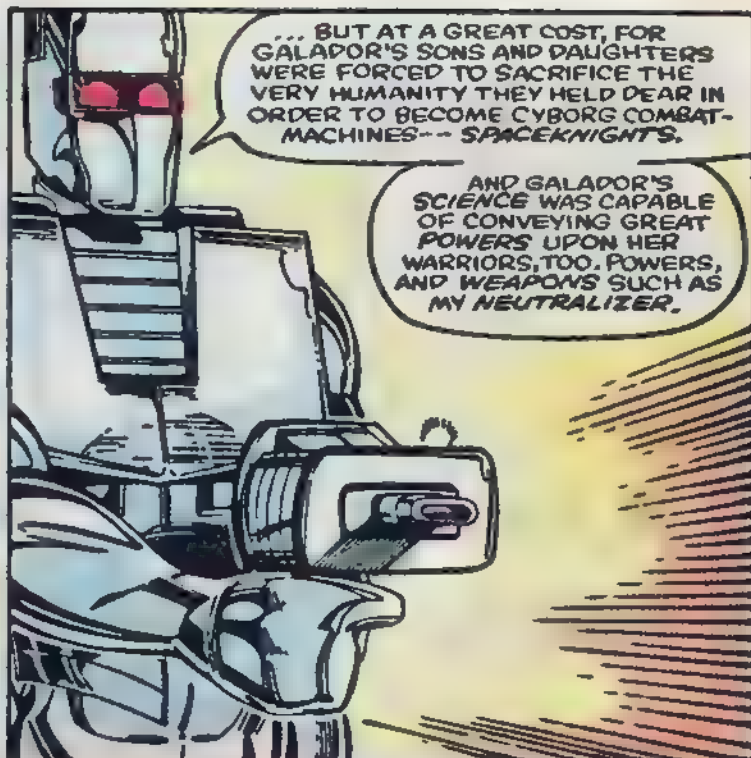


... AND RECONVENE OUTSIDE.

NOT ONLY DO WE HAVE AN ALIEN ENEMY TO CONTENT WITH, BUT AN ALIEN WORLD AS WELL!

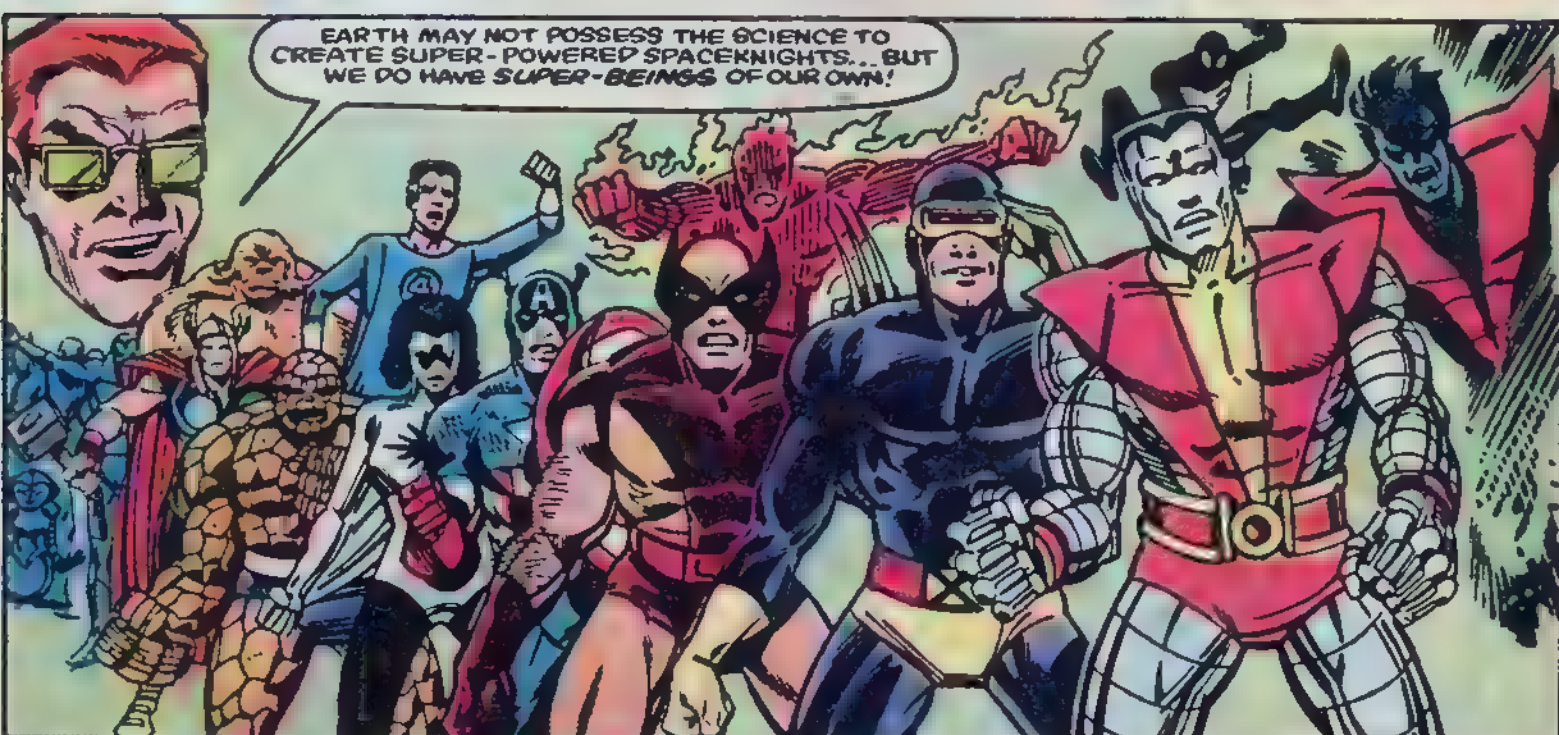
WHAT CAN WE DO, ROM? WHAT CAN YOU DO AFTER ALL, YOUR WORLD-- GALADOR-- BEAT THE WRAITHS 200 YEARS AGO!

AYE, GENERAL, GALADOR DID DEFEAT THE WRAITHS...

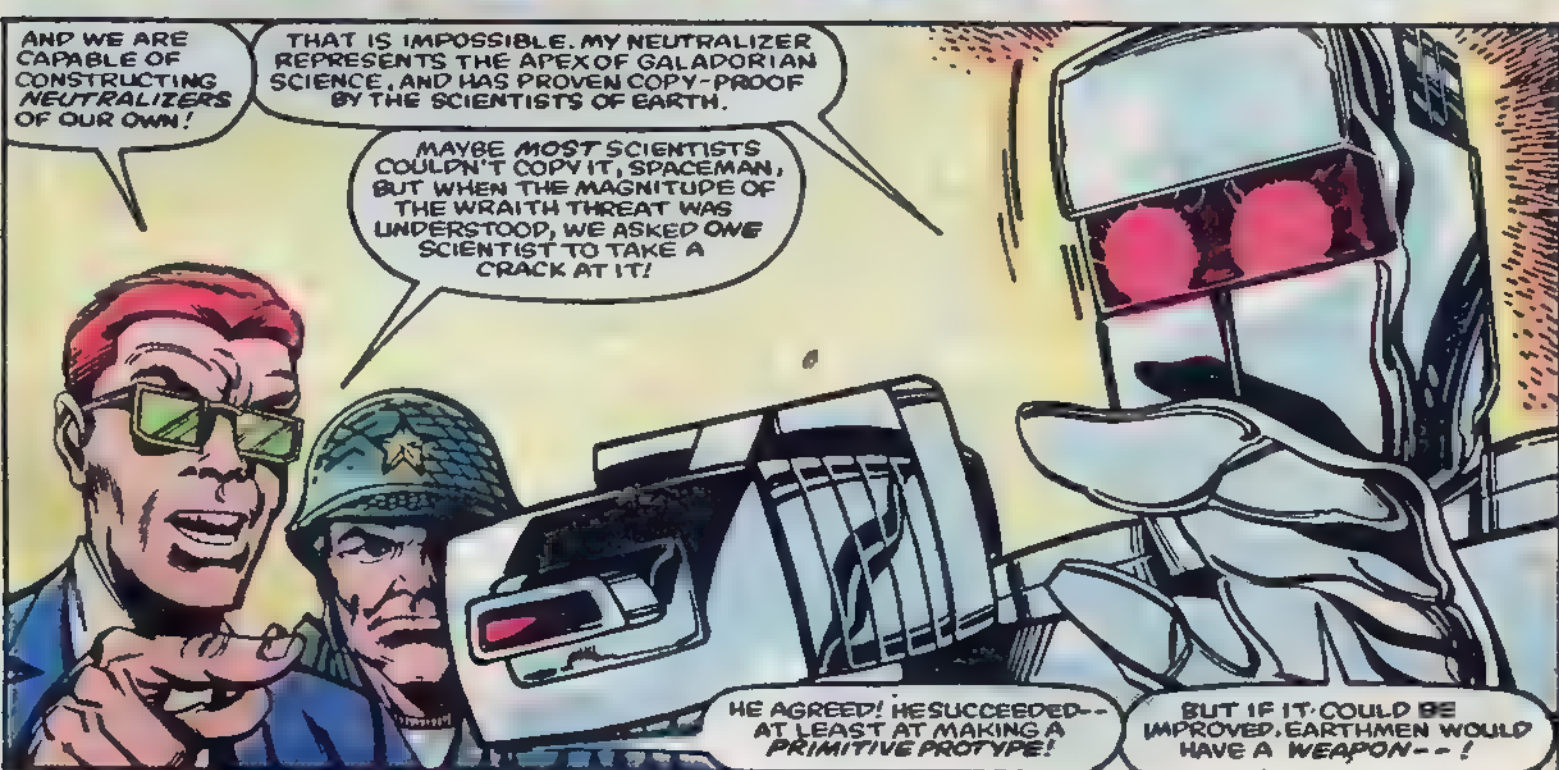


... BUT AT A GREAT COST, FOR GALADOR'S SONS AND DAUGHTERS WERE FORCED TO SACRIFICE THE VERY HUMANITY THEY HELD DEAR IN ORDER TO BECOME CYBORG COMBAT-MACHINES-- SPACEKNIGHTS.

AND GALADOR'S SCIENCE WAS CAPABLE OF CONVEYING GREAT POWERS UPON HER WARRIORS, TOO. POWERS, AND WEAPONS SUCH AS MY NEUTRALIZER.



EARTH MAY NOT POSSESS THE SCIENCE TO CREATE SUPER-POWERED SPACEKNIGHTS... BUT WE DO HAVE SUPER-BEINGS OF OUR OWN!



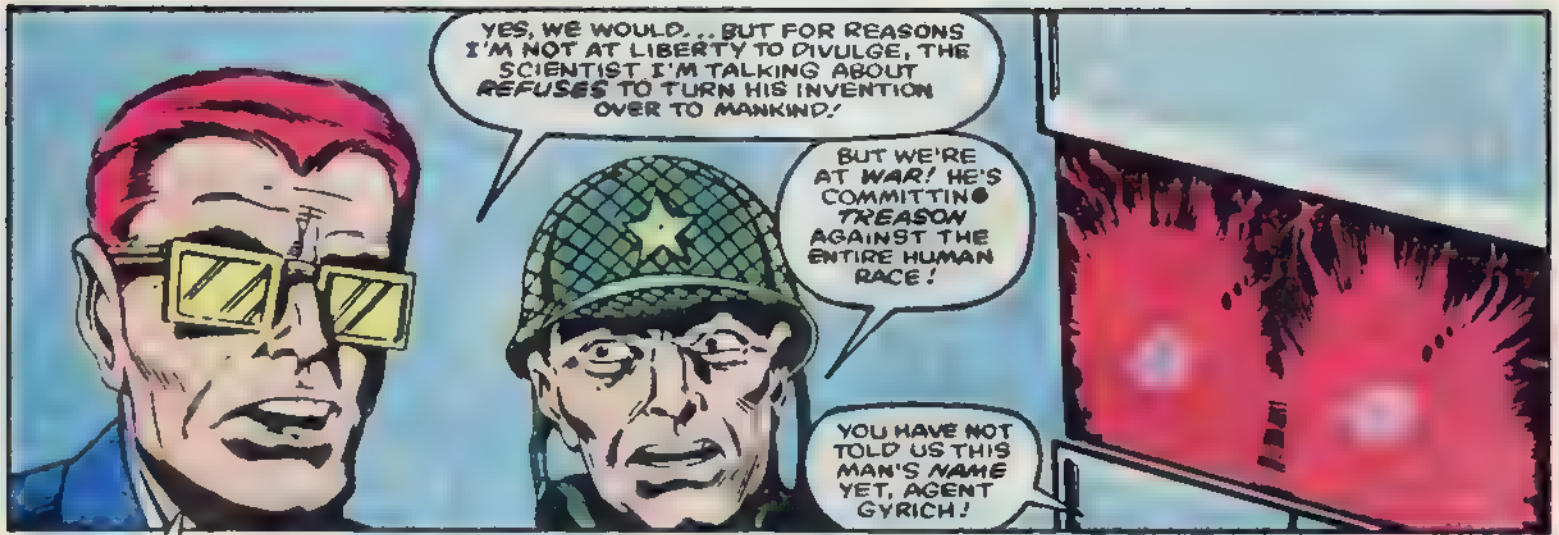
AND WE ARE CAPABLE OF CONSTRUCTING NEUTRALIZERS OF OUR OWN!

THAT IS IMPOSSIBLE. MY NEUTRALIZER REPRESENTS THE APEX OF GALADORIAN SCIENCE, AND HAS PROVEN COPY-PROOF BY THE SCIENTISTS OF EARTH.

MAYBE MOST SCIENTISTS COULDN'T COPY IT, SPACEMAN, BUT WHEN THE MAGNITUDE OF THE WRAITH THREAT WAS UNDERSTOOD, WE ASKED ONE SCIENTIST TO TAKE A CRACK AT IT!

HE AGREED! HE SUCCEEDED-- AT LEAST AT MAKING A PRIMITIVE PROTOTYPE!

BUT IF IT COULD BE IMPROVED, EARTHMEN WOULD HAVE A WEAPON--!



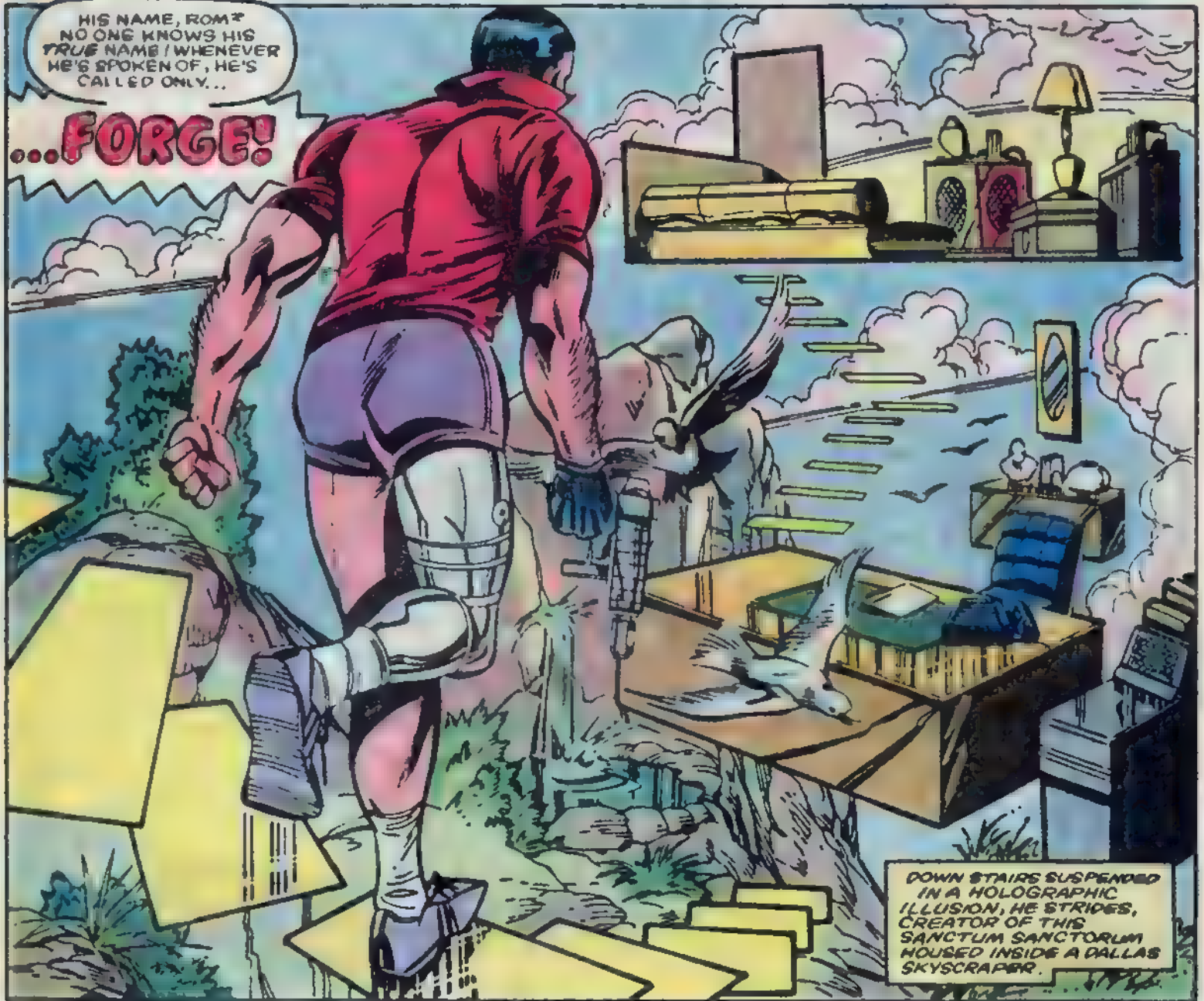
YES, WE WOULD... BUT FOR REASONS I'M NOT AT LIBERTY TO DIVULGE, THE SCIENTIST I'M TALKING ABOUT REFUSES TO TURN HIS INVENTION OVER TO MANKIND.

BUT WE'RE AT WAR! HE'S COMMITTING TREASON AGAINST THE ENTIRE HUMAN RACE!

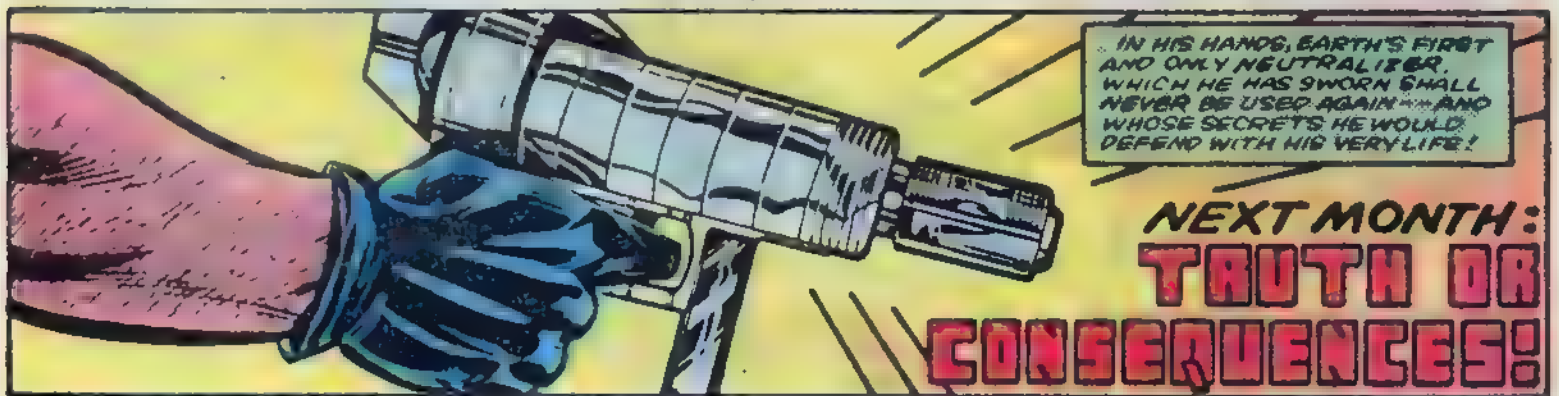
YOU HAVE NOT TOLD US THIS MAN'S NAME YET, AGENT GYRICH!

HIS NAME, ROM? NO ONE KNOWS HIS TRUE NAME! WHENEVER HE'S SPOKEN OF, HE'S CALLED ONLY...

...FORGE!



DOWN STAIRS SUSPENDED IN A HOLOGRAPHIC ILLUSION, HE STRIDES, CREATOR OF THIS SANCTUM SANCTORUM HOUSED INSIDE A DALLAS SKYSCRAPER.



IN HIS HANDS, EARTH'S FIRST AND ONLY NEUTRALIZER, WHICH HE HAS SWORN SHALL NEVER BE USED AGAIN... AND WHOSE SECRETS HE WOULD DEFEND WITH HIS VERY LIFE!

**NEXT MONTH:
TRUTH OR
CONSEQUENCES!**

SPACE NOTES

MICHAEL CARLIN: editor-MICHAEL HIGGINS: assistant editor
% MARVEL COMICS GROUP-587 Park Avenue South-New York, New York-10016
Attention correspondents: if you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

Dear Bill and Sal,

Rom and his supporting cast sure seem to be getting around a lot as of late. The same day that ROM #55 arrived for sale at our local comic store we also had a Rom guest appearance in HULK #296 and Dire Wraiths over in AVENGERS #244. I hope this trend continues, as it reinforces the fact that Rom's battle against the Wraiths is taking place in the Marvel Universe we all know and love, and not some alternate reality.

But what about ROM #55 itself? Glad you asked. In a word . . . superb! For some inexplicable reason, ROM never seems to get the critical raves that some of your other titles do, but that's OK. Your readers know that ROM is certainly worth reading, and that should be all you want. This particular issue featured a cover by Butch Guice, and although he took a few minor liberties with Rom's armor, it was still a very effective piece of art. I especially appreciated the way the artwork crossed over the logo. The art inside was impressive also, but didn't I detect the fine hand of Bill Sienkiewicz on page 17? Could you set the record straight, please?

I couldn't help but notice that the very next issue of ROM is going to feature one of my favorite super hero groups, Alpha Flight. I am looking forward to this, as it will undoubtedly have Rom paying a visit to my native land (unless, of course, Alpha Flight are the ones to cross the border). In any event, it should be a good one! So, until Rom gets a metal mohawk, Make Mine Marvel!

Conrad P. Felber
1319 Rose Marie Avenue
Sudbury, Ontario

Well, Conrad, we hope Alpha Flight's guest-spots in ROM lived up to your expectations. We've just begun to receive mail on ish #56, and from all indications we have another smashing success on our hands.

As for those panels you mentioned, you were just one of the many readers who spotted the distinctive style of Mr. Sienkiewicz and were curious as to the explanation. Here's the scoop. At the last minute, then-Editor Ralph Macchio decided a few art changes were necessary and there just wasn't time to have the regular art team handle them. Luckily, Bill was in the office and volunteered to render the new panels in the nick of time, just before the pages were swept away to the printers. We think Bill did a fine job, but what would you expect from the man who is currently setting the comic world afire with his stunning rendition of THE NEW MUTANTS.

And, if that's not enough, the aforementioned Messrs. Macchio and Sienkiewicz will be joining forces for the first time as the writer and artist, respectively, of Marvel's adaptation of the movie extravaganza DUNE to be released this Christmas season. Watch for it!

Dear ROMulans,

Well, I received ROM #55 and read it. What do I have to say about it? I guess it was OK. All of the ROM issues of late have been just OK. I was hoping beyond hope that Rom would leave Earth around issue #50 but it was not to be. Why do I want Rom off Earth? Mainly because I believe that most of the stories have been used up. Rom just seems to drag from place to place now. I'd like to see him and Starshine leave and meet up with other Spaceknights with the intention of cleansing other worlds. What is happening to all those other vulnerable planets while Rom is on Earth? I know there are lots of other Spaceknights out there, but can there possibly be enough?

As to what has been going on with Starshine — I don't like it! I say that she doesn't even deserve the name Starshine. She's not even in the same league with the deceased of the same name. That Starshine didn't let the war turn her into a hate machine. Change the new Starshine or get rid of her!

David Wington
Route 1 Box 192
Dutton, Al 35744

Dear Bill,

Why not publish a Wraith War limited-series in the same format as the KREE / SKRULL WAR? You have enough characters with Rom, Starshine, Firefall, the Spaceknight Squad, Terminator, Javelin, Rainbow, Astra, Hammerhand, and the rest of the Spaceknights — not to mention the Wraiths! Think of the interesting new vistas it would open up to you and the readers. You could show scenes from the Spaceknights' past lives, glimpses into the Wraith chain of command, more Wraithworld scenery, more Galador scenery, etc. It could even be the starting point of a new Galador series — from 200 years ago until the time of Rom's coming!

Please consider this.

Bruce Simon
9 Stryker Lane
Clinton, N.Y.

While there are no current plans for any kind of Spaceknight limited-series, it is certainly within the realm of possibility if enough of you readers write in and demand just such a thing. However, recent issues of ROM have provided us with a heretofore unseen view of Wraithworld and the extent of the evil sorceries of the Dire Wraiths. Rest assured, faithful readers, that there is much more to come as the Wraith War progresses towards its climactic conclusion.

As for stories concerning Galador — well, it would be somewhat premature to tip our hand at such an early date, but let's just say that you'll be more than pleased with the new direction and the startling developments which will be coming your way in the months to come!

Gentlepersons,

Allow me to add my thoughts to the recent volley of letters concerning Brandy "Starshine" Clark . . . lay off!

The lady's entire life has been destroyed. Her friends and her family are all dead. She watched her entire town suffer a grisly end. She's got a right to her vengeance. Also, remember that the Dire Wraiths are a race of hideous, soulless things bent on wiping out the whole planet. They don't care who they kill — in fact, they want to kill everyone!

I'd like to ask the readers what they'd do if they watched the person — no, the *people* — they love most die slowly and painfully.

Go for it, Starshine! More power to ya! And if you get sick of the bleeding hearts, just remember you've got me on your side.

Bob Pratt
P.O. Box 3
Orwell, N.Y. 13426

Dear Sirs,

In the fifteenth, and final, issue of THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE you gave information about Rom's "weapons" which was inaccurate. I'm sure you've realized by now that the picture of Rom's Analyzer and the picture of his Neutralizer were switched somewhere along the way. I suspect Wraith sorcery!

Jerry L.B. Grigg II
Box 2915 Jonesboro Hwy.
Arcadia, LA 71001

That's as good an explanation as any, Jerry. Actually, we've been meaning to mention that error for quite some time now and you've given us the opportunity to get it off our chests. There are plans for updated versions of TOHOTMU to be published in special formats and Editor Mark Gruenwald assures us that this foo-bar will be rectified in subsequent editions . . . Wraith sorcery not withstanding.

THIS JUST IN . . .

ITEM: If you move fast, there's still a slim chance that you'll be able to find yourself a copy of this year's ROM ANNUAL (#3, 1984). In it, you can read for yourselves the astonishing fate of Starshine the Spaceknight. Also featured is the return of one of Rom's most menacing of enemies . . . Hybrid! That's ROM ANNUAL #3 brought to you by Bill Mantlo, William Johnson and Ian Akin and Brian Garvey. Buy it now!

NEXT ISSUE: Rom meets Forge and they both meet the Dire Wraiths! It's up to Rom to make Forge face up to the truth about the Wraiths or have Earth pay the consequences . . . in a story we're calling "Truth or Consequences," by Mantlo / Ditko / Akin and Garvey! Be there, mon frer!

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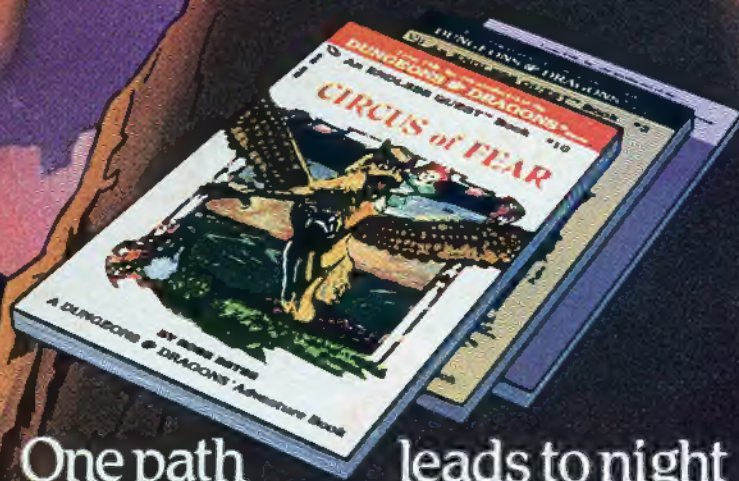
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